

Botanical Name: Dioon spinulosum

Common Name: Spiny dioon, Giant dioon

Type of Plant: cycad: perennial Family Zamiaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape single trunk rosette of gray-green arching fronds which carry
spiny leaf margins; this cycad can reach tree-like size when mature

Height to 40 ft. Spread to 8 ft. Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil prefers a soil with good drainage

Hardiness tender (zones 21-24)

Morphology:

Leaves to 5' long, pinnately compound with 80 to 100 pairs of narrow
6" long leaflets which are armed with 5-8 short spines; leaflets gray-green

Flowers dioecious; female flower ovoid, to 18" long, 10" across and
drooping when mature; male flower cylindrical, upright, to 18" tall

Fruit large fleshy drupes with a single 2" long seed

Propagation: seed

Usage: very choice accent plant for containers or in beds; used for
its dramatic form and color; can be used in tropical, subtropical or oriental
theme landscapes; can reach 50 feet in nature, listed as the world's biggest cycad

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular, deep watering; somewhat drought tolerant when
well established

Fertilizing slow-release in spring

Pruning remove dead fronds at the bottom of the plant; little needed

Pests/Diseases mealybug and scale

Other thrives in hotter, drier conditions than Cycas revoluta

Origin: Southern Mexico