

Cycas circinalis

Botanical Name: *Cycas circinalis*

Common Name: Queen Sago

Morphological Characteristics:

Cycads are an ancient group of seed plants with a crown of large compound leaves and a stout trunk. Cycads are dioecious plants, or in other words, there are separate male and female plants. The female plant produces the seeds, and the male produces cones with pollen in them. Queen Sago is often the focal point in a large yard. The Sago Palm is not a palm, but a cycad. Cycads are known to be among the oldest group of seed plants on earth, surviving unchanged for millions of years. The feathery leaves of this species arranged in a rosette pattern add a sense of the tropics to the landscape. The leaves are bright green, semiglossy, 150-250 cm long, flat (not keeled) in section (opposing leaflets inserted at 180° on rachis), with 170 leaflets, tomentum shedding as leaf expands. The Queen Sago does not branch whereas the King Sago, *Cycas revoluta*, creates many heads branching off from the main trunk and also from sprouts at ground level. Male Sago plants develop a cone approximately 30 cm tall coming from the center of the top. The cone is white or yellow, rounded and produces abundant pollen. The seeds are quite large and are brown or yellow and are displayed on the feather-like seed-bearing leaves. The seeds have a spongy layer that allows them to float on water. As a slow growing plant, the seed can take from 6–18 months to germinate. Queen Sago is pollinated by a species of weevil, which finds protection in the plant's cone and seed-bearing leaves.



Growing season and type:

1. The seeds are quite large and are brown or yellow and are displayed on the feather-like seed-bearing leaves. The seeds have a spongy layer that allows them to float on water.
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1. Fruit of *Cycas circinalis*
2. Leaf of *Cycas circinalis*
3. *Cycas circinalis* tree

Source: <http://www.pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Cycas+circinalis>