



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Cycas revoluta*¹

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Introduction

The palm-like King Sago has a short, dark brown, unbranching trunk topped with graceful, arching, dark green, feathery leaves, two to three feet long (Fig. 1). King Sago is not a palm tree. It will eventually reach to about eight feet tall, but grows about one or two inches per year. The individual leaflets each end in a sharp tip. Although very slow-growing, King Sago is much prized for its tropical effect and easy care and makes an excellent specimen or container plant. It is easy to grow as a house plant.

General Information

Scientific name: *Cycas revoluta*

Pronunciation: SYE-kus rev-voe-LOO-tuh

Common name(s): King Sago

Family: *Cycadaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; border; mass planting; accent; suitable for growing indoors

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

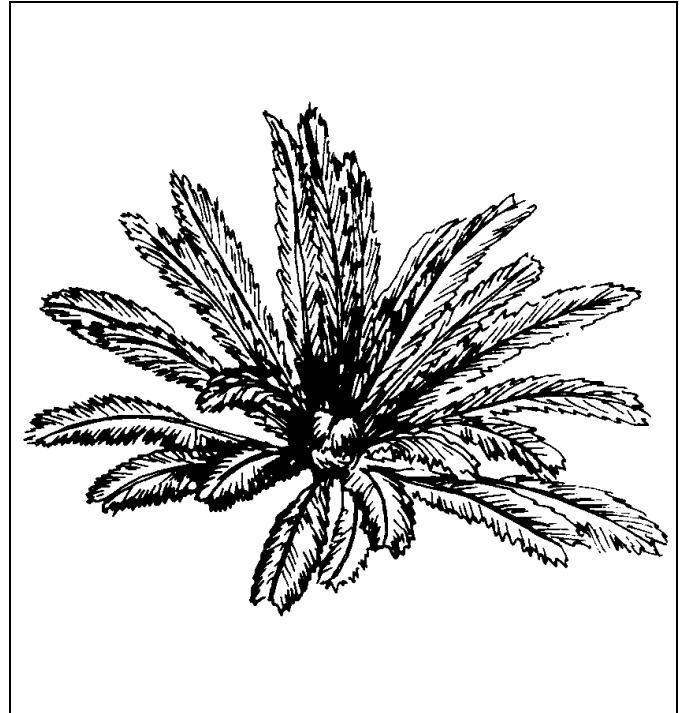


Figure 1. King Sago.

Description

Height: 3 to 10 feet

Spread: 4 to 8 feet

Plant habit: palm

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-162, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999. Please visit the EDIS web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** spiral
- Leaf type:** even-pinnately compound
- Leaf margin:** terminal spine
- Leaf shape:** lanceolate
- Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

Flower

- Flower color:** no flowers
- Flower characteristic:** no flowers

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** oval
- Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches
- Fruit cover:** dry or hard
- Fruit color:** brown
- Fruit characteristic:** showy

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** showy; can be trained to grow with a short, single trunk; usually with one stem/trunk
- Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
- Drought tolerance:** high
- Soil salt tolerances:** poor
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

- Roots:** usually not a problem
- Winter interest:** no special winter interest
- Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding
- Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

Use and Management

When given sufficient room to spread, King Sago performs very well in shade, part shade, or full sun and requires infrequent watering once established. They transplant easily with a small root ball. They look nice placed in a ground cover which will set off the dark green foliage and striking form. Large multi-branched specimens are very expensive, but make one of the best specimen plants in Florida. They usually branch when they are very old but techniques are under development to encourage branching at a very early age. It can be used for mass planting, spaced about four feet apart.

Plants are usually propagated by seed.

Scale can cause major problems. Micronutrient deficiencies, including manganese, can severely discolor and deform the foliage.

Pests and Diseases

Leaf-spotting diseases can be a major problem for King Sago Palm.

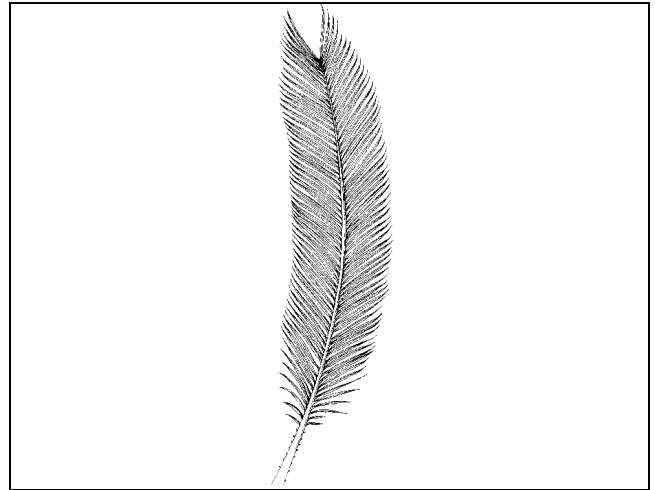


Figure 3. Foliage of King Sago