



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: *Zamia furfuracea*
- Common Name: Cardboard Palm
- Plant Family: Cycadaceae
- Mature Size: 3 - 5 ft.
- Growth Habit: Mounding
- Bloom Color: None
- Bloom Form: None
- Bloom Time: None
- Water Needs: Light
- Light Needs: Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Recommended Zones: 9 - 11
- Key Features: Produces elongated showy red fruit stalk
- Suggested Uses: Tropical ground cover or low hedges
- Growers Notes : Overwatering can quickly result in crown rot, water sparingly to just keep soil damp.



Zamia furfuracea or **Cardboard Palm** is an evolutionary relic of the Cycad family. This species has been around since dinosaurs ruled the Earth and provides a prehistoric feeling groundcover to many landscapes. While these plants do not produce a bloom, the stalk from which they bear fruit is very showy and beautiful. Cardboard Palm seed stalks are a brilliant shade of red and are extremely toxic if ingested.

Cardboard Palm was named the 2007 Florida Plant of the Year by the Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association (FNGLA) because it is so easy to grow. These olive toned, blue hued leaves of this plant are thick and waxy. Because all parts of the Cardboard Palm are extremely toxic it should be kept away from children and pets, but in the right home it will make an excellent houseplant. These cycads adapt well to potted conditions when placed in an area with plenty of light and are not overwatered.

While these prehistoric wonders are hardy, they are susceptible to crown rot when receiving too much water. They thrive in sandy soil that drains well between watering. The growth habit of the Cardboard Palm is a mounding pattern that reaches 3 – 5 ft in height and as far as 8 ft. in diameter.

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Prune lightly after flowering to encourage branching and shape.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.
- Protect mature tree from high winds.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information. The absence of information does not mean or imply that a plant is not toxic, only that no information is generally known by us.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.

*** Image Courtesy of Mack Lundy

Care of Your New Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not generally recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be repotted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately repot the new plant into a larger pot. A 6 inch pot is recommended for starter plugs, and a 10 inch in recommended for 4 inch diameter starter pots.
- Use a good quality commercial bagged potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical, quick release fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Check the recommended location in the plant specifics and position accordingly. Note that plants that are suitable for growing in full sun should be acclimated, and young plants should be protected from direct, very hot sun while they are becoming established.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water. Some plants prefer to dry a bit between waterings, so check the plant specifics.
- Packing crystals may be re-used to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If re-using crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain, and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold when young, or during cold conditions more severe or longer duration than the average for the Zone Range.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk, encourage branching, and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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