

Standley's Zamia



Standley's Zamia *Zamia standleyi*

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 10a

Description:

A tropical cycad with a woody stem that is typically underground, unless on a shallow, rocky site; green, arching pinnate leaves are graceful in form and texture; female may produce tan cones with scarlet red seeds



Standley's Zamia foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Standley's Zamia is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The tan fruits with coppery-bronze overtones are held in abundance in spectacular cones from late summer to mid fall. It has attractive green evergreen foliage. The glossy narrow pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter. The brown stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Standley's Zamia is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting birds and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Standley's Zamia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Standley's Zamia will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 120 years or more; think of this as a heritage shrub for future generations! This is a dioecious species, meaning that individual plants are either male or female. Only the females will produce fruit, and a male variety of the same species is required nearby as a pollinator.

This shrub should be grown in a location with partial shade or which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Standley's Zamia makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.