



**Whitelock's Cycad**  
*Encephalartos whitelockii*

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: Uganda Giant Cycad

**Description:**

A large and showy cycad, with extremely long, pinnate green leaves; forms a thick trunk over a very long time period, that tends to be solitary; an impressive large landscape accent; very adaptable, but must be well drained, tolerant of light frost

**Planting & Growing**

Whitelock's Cycad will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 200 years or more; think of this as a heritage tropical plant 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 tropical plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. 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. It can be propagated by division.



*Whitelock's Cycad*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Whitelock's Cycad fruit*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



**Barrie Location**  
4346 Highway 90  
Springwater, Ontario  
L9X 1T7

**Bradford Location**  
3817 County Road 4  
Bradford, Ontario  
L3Z 2A5

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Whitelock's Cycad is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting 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.