

**GROWING
Zamia inermis
IN PALM BEACH COUNTY**

Submitted by Dale Holton

Zamia inermis was named in 1983. It is from the Mexican State of Veracruz, District of Actopan. It is very endangered in habitat, due to land clearing for cattle grazing. It is now only found on rocky outcrops and cliffs. There is very little regeneration due to loss of natural pollinators.



***Zamia inermis* growing in the Holton Garden
(Photo by Dale Holton)**

The plants can have stems of 3' or more, but the stems usually lay over when they get too tall. The leaves can be 3' to 4' or more. In cultivation, they can reach 5'. Each leaf can have 25-35 leaflets. Leaves and leaf stems are free of any sharp prickles. The plants grow in dry very poor volcanic soil at 500' to 1000' elevation.

I obtained my first plants in the early 1990s. The only person that had any for sale was Loren Whitelock which he sold for \$35 for one leaf seedlings. My plants are now large and have been coning for the last four years. These plants are very hardy and survive quite well without any irrigation. They are not affect ed by

our winter cold spells and they don't seem to get mealy bug or scale problems. With each new leaf flush, the plants get a little taller. I think that if the old leaves were cut off every two years, the plants would stay shorter and be more attractive. I have found that hand pollination is very effective and produces about 70% or more germination. The seeds are quite large and easily germinated. The seedlings start out somewhat slowly but speed up after a year or two. This is a great plant to use in any garden here in south Florida. These cycads are usually only available in specialty nurseries. (See additional photos on page 11.)



***Zamia inermis* female cone
(Photos by Dale Holton)**



***Zamia inermis* male cone
(Photo by Dale Holton)**



Zamia inermis leaf (Photo by Dale Holton)