

GROWING *Zamia vazquezii* IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

Submitted by Dale Holton

Zamia vazquezii is found in wet lowland forest in deep shade, at elevations of around 2,000 ft. These plants are found in Mexico in the states of Hidalgo, San Louis Potosi and Veracruz. This *Zamia* is named in honor of Mario Vazquez Torres. In the past, this plant was falsely called *Zamia fischerii*, which it resembles.



***Zamia vazquezii* growing in the Holton garden.**

(Photo by Charlie Beck)

Zamia vazquezii is a very attractive plant and is very easy to grow. It can be grown in shade or full sun, but looks best when grown in some shade. It comes in two forms, one with green emergent leaves and the other with bronze emergent leaves. The two forms can only be identified when new leaves are present. Well grown plants can have many leaves that can be two to three feet tall. In containers, they usually lose their leaves in the winter, but in the ground this usually does not occur. At my house, the plants have never been affected by cold. I usually defoliate my plants in the early spring as they tend to get scale and mealy bug during the dry months. Defoliating the plants also causes them to make a new full head of leaves. When you don't defoliate them, they tend to get too many leaves and new leaves have a difficult time getting through the old leaves.

These plants are not rare in cultivation and can be found in some specialty nurseries at very reasonable prices. They are easy to propagate from seed. The local pollinators sometimes pollinate them.

I believe these *Zamias* are under utilized in landscape plantings. These plants look nice as borders
