
PLEASE PROTECT ME

I am a very rare specimen tree in your area. In order to ensure my survival, please protect me by following these suggestions:

1. Do not injure my trunk.
2. Keep all machines and weed whips away.
3. Do not pull or cut any plantlets that appear in the ground around my base or in my trunk.
4. Do not over water me.
5. I will respond well to a good nutrient supply with an even NPK balance and supplemented trace elements.



6. Remove any competition from neighboring plants.

The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and protects hundreds of heritage trees. Heritage trees are individual trees of any size or species that are specifically designated as heritage because of their historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. Preserving these treasures is important for future generations to admire. For further information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Parks at the address below.



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
General Manager
Manuel A. Mollinedo**

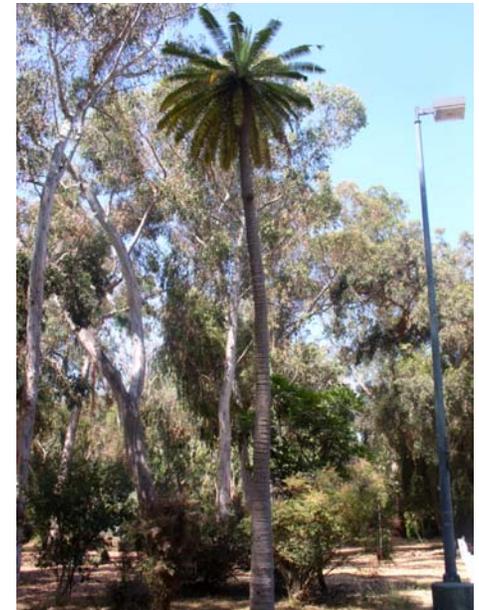
Forestry Division
3900 W. Chevy Chase Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Phone: 213-485-4826
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Giant Dioon The Cycad Twins

HERITAGE TREE



*Rustic Canyon
Recreation Center
601 Latimer Rd.
Pacific Palisades, CA 90402*

Tel: (310) 454-5734



Giant Dioon *Dioon spinulosum*

Hello!!! If you thought for a second that I was just another common palm; think again !!! People often refer to me as a palm but let me assure

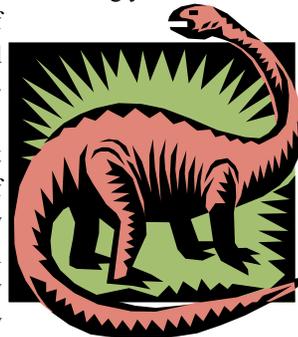


you that there is very little relation between a true palm and myself. Although you may find it difficult to believe, I share a closer relationship to pines, junipers, cypresses, redwoods, and other cone-bearing, none-

flowering plants. The name that Botanists gave me is *Dioon spinulosum*. I belong to a special group of plants commonly referred to as the "CYCADS". The cycads are a group of primitive palm-like plants that have a world-wide distribution. As for myself, I am native to Mexico. I was brought over and planted in the 1900's. I am a very slow growing plant which produces a single set of new fronds each year. It has taken hundreds of years for me to reach my current height of over 30 feet. I am considered as the largest of my kind in California. In the past, I used to have a double headed trunk. Due to environmental problems, one of the heads in my trunk has died off. My twin is planted next to me. Please come over and visit us any time you want.

DINOSAUR FOOD

Scientists sometimes refer to me as a living fossil. That is because my ancestors lived in the era before and during the dinosaurs. Amazingly I survived many apocalyptic disasters of the past that destroyed most of the living organism in this planet. My appearance hasn't changed in millions of years. Fossils from my ancestors have been unearthed and they show that I look exactly like plants from millions of years in the past. It is believed that my ancestors served as a very important source of food for many species of dinosaurs and other prehistoric ani-



FROND

mals. In order to defend themselves from such enormous animals, many plants including myself, made our fronds very tough and rigid and equipped with very sharp needles and spines. Today there are very few herbivore animals that would dare take a bite of my foliage.

CONES

I made my appearance into this planet years before any flowering plants. Back in those days, I mainly shared the planet with spore-bearing plants such as ferns and mosses. I was one of the very first plants that started to producing seeds. I produce my seeds in a cone-like structure. My cone resembles a foot



FEMALE CONE

ball in shape and size. Depending on the specific individual, we may produce a male or a female cone. Only the female cone produces seeds. The male cone only produces pollen. People used to believe that we depended on wind to accomplish our pollination. After many observations, people discovered that beetles are the main pollinators of cycads like myself. Inside the protective cones I produce



MALE CONE

many large seeds. It takes several years for the seeds to mature and be ready to grow. Although my seeds are not edible to humans, in the wild monkey have been observed dining and enjoying them.



BETTERLES