

# Don't throw away a Cycad

What to do when your cycad has rot in the stems and/or roots?

When the plant stops growing, it could be the first sign of root rot. Don't wait until the leaves collapse, because then it could be too late. The first sign of rotting will be the activity of insects on the cycad. Start by pulling on the leaf basis, and if it is coming out, keep pulling until you get to the stage where you can't pull any out.

If the "head" of your cycad is soft or rotten, start cutting away from the top until you get to healthy plant material (normally a beige colour.) Let the wound dry out for several days. In case of a down pour, cover temporary with plastic, but remove as soon as the rain is gone.

After several days, build a dome with cement, to prevent water from gathering and causing further rot. Normally the plant will either pushes the dome from the top with new leaves (yes, it is possible, have experienced it) or will make suckers to the side.



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