Featured articles

Why is it dangerous to eat the seeds from cycads?

All parts of the plant are toxic, but the seeds contain higher amounts of cycasin (a carcinogenic and neurotoxic glucoside) than do the other parts of the plant. ... Despite being highly toxic, the seeds and leaves are highly palatable so dogs will often choose to eat them if available.

What is the toxin in cycads?

Cycads mainly produce toxic azoglucosides and neurotoxic non-protein amino acids (e.g. BMAA), which apparently are crucial elements in the development and maintenance of mutualism (pollination) and parasitism (herbivory) by cycad-linked herbivores.

What about dogs eating the seeds?

JCU is warning dog owners that their pets may suffer severe poisoning if they eat the common household cycad plant. James Cook University is warning dog owners that their pets may suffer severe poisoning if they eat the common household cycad plant.

Advice: Wear latex gloves when cleaning the seeds. Use a mask when you pollinate the cycad.

Cut male cones when you are not going to use it – especially Cycas thouarsii, because it could irritate a baby (see image below)

CANCER RESEARCH 28, 2262-2267, November 1968 -Toxicology of Cycasin

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