Coontie

Zamia pumila



Coontie
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Florida Arrowroot, Compties, Seminole Bread

Description:

A small, native cycad with a woody trunk that is typically underground, unless on a shallow, rocky site; deep green, arching pinnate leaves are graceful in form and texture; female may produce cones with red to orange seeds; watch for mealybugs and scale

Ornamental Features

Coontie is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy narrow pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Coontie is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting birds and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Coontie is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Coontie will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 120 years or more; think of this as a heritage shrub for future generations!

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.

Coontie makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.