



Scientific Name	<i>Cycas circinalis</i> L.
Common Names	Queen Sago, False Sago Palm, ഇഴുനൻ
Family	Cycadaceae
Plant description	It is a slow growing shrub or small tree that can reach heights up to 15 feet. The plant has a palm-like appearance with a moderate density and fine texture. Its evergreen leaves are lanceolate and arranged in a spiral pattern giving the plant feathery look. The leaves are typically 8 to 12 inches long and maintain their green colour throughout the year. Male Sago plants develop a cone approximately 30 cm tall coming from the centre of the top. The cone is white or yellow, rounded and produces abundant pollen. The seeds are quite large and are brown or yellow and are displayed on the feather-like seed-bearing leaves. The seeds have a spongy layer that allows them to float on water. <i>Cycas circinalis</i> is the only gymnosperm species found among native Sri Lankan flora.
Distribution	<i>C. circinalis</i> is native to southern India and Sri Lanka. This species is endemic to India, specifically in the Western Ghats across the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and southern Maharashtra. It thrives in dense, seasonally dry scrubby woodlands in hilly areas.
Uses	Queen Sago is used as an ornamental plant in gardens, often

	<p>serving as a border or accent plant. It is suitable for growing indoors and is commonly found in public and private gardens. The plant's seeds can be processed into flour, but they contain neurotoxins that can cause serious health issues if consumed improperly.</p>
Flowering and Fruiting time	<p><i>Cycas circinalis</i> does not produce flowers in the traditional sense, as it is a gymnosperm. Instead, it produces large showy seeds, which are brown and 1-3 inches long, that are displayed on seed bearing leaves. These seeds can take 6 to 18 months to germinate.</p>