

Cycas circinalis

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About *Cycas circinalis*

- It is popularly known as Eenthu Pana in Kerala.
 - It is known by different names like Mund isalu (Kannada), madana kama raja (Tamil) and Malabari supari (Marathi) in different states.
 - It belongs to cycads (family Cycadaceae), which are one of the world's most threatened plant groups.
 - These family trees have originated 300 million years ago during the Carboniferous period, cycads are the oldest extant group of seed plants.
 - Features
 - It is an evergreen palm-like tree that grows up to 25 ft.
 - It typically occurs in fairly dense, seasonally dry scrubby woodlands in hilly areas.
 - It is also facultative deciduous in extremely dry times.
 - Eenthu Pana is like areca nut. It cannot be prepared unless it's completely dry and this is difficult as it's usually plucked in the rainy season.
 - They bear fruits after 40 to 50 years in most cases.
 - Geographical distribution: It is known to be an Indian endemic, restricted to the Western Ghats, in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and the south of Maharashtra.
 - Out of the nine species of cycads recognised within India, six are endemic.
 - Applications: It is a nutraceutical plant for several indigenous communities in the Western Ghats.
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Q1) What are Cycads?

These are seed plants that typically have a stout and woody trunk with a crown of large, hard, stiff, evergreen and pinnate leaves.

Source: [A rare tree fights a losing battle in north Kerala](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/cycas-circinalis/>

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