

Cycad Corner

With Jody Haynes

This month's featured cycad is *Zamia tuerckheimii*, an elegant yet under-appreciated tropical cycad with great landscaping potential. Described in 1903 by John Donnell-Smith, this species was named in honor of Hans von Türckheim, famous plant collector who first collected the species.

A native of Guatemala, *Zamia tuerckheimii* is relatively common in habitat but is still quite uncommon in cultivation. Although reports suggest that it can grow a trunk to three or more feet in height, the largest plants in cultivation here in Florida are all virtually

trunkless.

While plants in habitat reportedly have an iridescent blue-green tint to the leaves, those in cultivation here in Florida are a bright glossy green, with the newly emerging leaves being a bright, glossy, yellow-green color. This species performs best in some shade. It should be planted in a well-drained, but rich, organic soil and should receive regular water. It should only require occasional fertilizer, if any at all, to look its best.

Good luck growing this fantastic *Zamia*!

