

# COONTIE PALM

Coontie palms are Florida natives. Sun and shade tolerant, rugged and untouched by insects or disease, and very drought tolerant; they are ideal under oaks and pines or fully exposed. They lose their leaves with a sustained, heavy frost but are evergreen in areas of occasional mild frost. They are very attractive and low maintenance.

Coontie palms, *Zamia pumila*, produce both male and female reproductive cone-like structures on separate plants. The male structures produce pollen and they are rusty to deep brown in color. The female produces beautiful reddish seed structures. This plant has been around since the time of dinosaurs which makes them ancient and very exotic looking. Coonties will grow to about 4 feet tall with a potential 6 foot spread but it takes a long time for it to reach this size. They are native to our area and are very easy to grow, and normally found in where pines and oaks are grown. Their root bulbs were a food source for native peoples.

