

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH428



### ATHYRIUM PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Lady fern or Japanese painted fern
- Scientific name: *Athyrium sp.*
- Low maintenance fern used in shade gardens
- Foliage appears from early spring until frost
- Grows 18'' tall and forms clumps up to 2' wide
- Produces silver-gray fronds 12-18'' long
- Hardy in zones 3-8

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers partial to full shade
- Light shade yields the best frond color

- Requires moist, well-drained, compost rich soil
- Add 2-3 inches of compost or peat moss to the bed each spring or fall
- Fertilize at one-half the rate of other perennials

#### PROPAGATION

- Propagated by division in spring or fall
- Separate well-grown plants into 3-4 divisions and replant
- Tissue culture can be used to clone exceptional plants

#### DISORDERS

- Gray mold (*Botrytis sp.*)
  - Water-soaked spots appear on fronds

- Affected foliage wilts and collapses
- Remove affected foliage
- Slugs and snails
  - Feed on young foliage
  - Handpick and remove
  - Use a slug trap
- Aphids
  - Feed on plant juices
  - Can stunt growth and cause leaf curl
  - Use a vigorous spray of water every other day to remove insects

### CONSUMER CARE

- Excellent contrast to shade-loving perennials
- Great choice for a location near a pond or stream

- Remove dead foliage in winter

### CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Athyrium*
  - 'Ghost': clump forming fern with ghostly silver-gray foliage
- *Athyrium felix-fermina*
  - 'Lady in Red': lacy upright lime green fronds, burgundy stems
- *Athyrium nipponicum*
  - 'Pictum': burgundy stems with gray fronds and a hint of pink

### References

- <http://www.perennialplant.org/ppy/04ppy.htm>
- <http://www.daytonnursery.com/Encyclopedia/Ferns/Athyrium.htm>