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## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH429



### CYRTOMIUM

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Holly fern
- Scientific name: *Cyrtomium falcatum*
- Native to Africa, Asia, and the Pacific islands
- Upright fern forming a rounded mound up to 2' high and 3' wide
- Glossy, dark green fronds on slender, arching stems
- Individual frond sections resemble holly leaves
- Evergreen only in frost free areas
- Hardy in zones 6-11

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers partial to full shade, but tolerates more sun than most ferns
- Prefers well-drained, acidic media
- Thrives with occasional fertilization

#### PROPAGATION

- Propagate by division in spring or summer
- Plant newly divided sections slightly deeper than the original plant
- Can be grown from spores
- Sow spores on damp peat moss in late winter
- Germination occurs at 68-70°F

## **DISORDERS**

- Scale insects
  - Feed on plant sap
  - Excrete large amounts of sticky honeydew
  - Cause a black fungus to grow on upper surfaces of leaves
  - Inspect plants before purchasing
  - Can be controlled by predatory insects such as ladybugs

## **CONSUMER CARE**

- Makes an attractive border around large trees
- Often used as a house plant

- Often used as a background in floral arrangements

## **CULTIVARS AND SPECIES**

- *Cyrtomium falcatum*
  - 'Rochfordii': Glossy dark green fronds

## **References**

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrtomium>
- [http://www.floridata.com/ref/C/cyrt\\_fal.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/C/cyrt_fal.cfm)
- <http://www.plantoftheweek.org/week038.shtml>