
ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH430



DRYOPTERIS

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Wood Fern
- Scientific name: *Dryopteris sp.*
- Native to the temperate Northern Hemisphere
- Evergreen fern up to 24'' in height
- Spreads up to 24'' wide
- Fronds often form a vase-like ring
- Hardy in zones 5-11

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Requires a shady location with less than two hours of direct sunlight
- Grows well in most any media
- Average water needs; will tolerate some neglect
- Slow growth habit

PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated by division of rhizomes
- Space plants 18-24'' apart
- Can also be propagated from spores
- Sprinkle spores on top of freshly sifted compost
- Set indoors in a greenhouse and transplant when the first fronds develop

DISORDERS

- No serious disease or pest problems

CONSUMER CARE

- Very little maintenance required
- Relatively expensive to purchase due to slow growth
- Ideal for use as a ground cover

- Mixes well with other ferns in a shady location
- Fronds can be used in arrangements but only last 3-4 days

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Dryopteris australis* (Dixie Wood Fern): Semi-evergreen, large erect fronds

- *Dryopteris erythrosora* (Autumn Fern): Bronze growth turning deep-green with maturity

References

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dryopteris>
- <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/shrubs/DRYERYA.PDF>
- <http://www.botany.com/dryopteris.html>