
ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH432



OSMUNDA

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Royal Fern
- Scientific name: *Osmunda regalis*
- Native to temperate areas around the globe
- Deciduous herbaceous fern growing 2-5' tall
- Fronds resemble locust leaves rather than a typical fern
- Fertile fronds, growing 1-2' long, form brown sporangia towards their tips
- Hardy in zones 3-10

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers light to full shade
- Will tolerate full sun if watered regularly
- Requires moist media

- Prefers media with an acidic pH

PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated by division of rhizomes
- Plants should be spaced 4-6' apart
- Can also be propagated from spores

DISORDERS

- Relatively free of pest and disease problems

CONSUMER CARE

- Will grow well in standing water
- Fronds turn yellow in fall
- Leave dead fronds on the plant during winter to protect the crown
- Young fronds can be eaten as a vegetable

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Osmunda regalis*: fronds resemble large locust leaves

References

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