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## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH433



### POLYSTICHUM PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Shield Fern
- Scientific name: *Polystichum sp.*
- Native to temperate areas around the globe
- Evergreen fern with shiny dark green fronds
- Has stronger fronds with a rougher texture than the similar genus *Dryopteris*
- Grows 18-24'' tall
- Hardy in zones 5-9

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers light shade but will grow in full shade
- Will tolerate some direct sun in the morning or late afternoon

- Prefers evenly moist media; will not perform well in waterlogged soil
- Should be protected from strong winds

#### PROPAGATION

- Propagated by division of the root ball in spring
- Space plants 15-18'' apart
- Can also be propagated from spores
- Sow spores on the top of moist, humus-rich media; transfer to pots when plants are large enough to handle

#### DISORDERS

- Problems with pests and diseases are rare

### **CONSUMER CARE**

- Remove old fronds from the plant in early spring
- Shiny foliage adds luster to a woodland garden
- Can be grown in containers
- Often used as a backdrop for cut flower arrangements

### **CULTIVARS AND SPECIES**

- *Polystichum polyblepharum* (Tassel Fern): Evergreen foliage; as fronds

unwind the tips hang down, giving the appearance of tassels

- *Polystichum tsus-simense* (Korean Rock Fern): Dark shiny green fronds with bronze tones; semi-evergreen foliage

### **References**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polystichum>

<http://www.plantzafrika.com/plantnop/polystichum.htm>

[http://www.floridata.com/ref/P/polys\\_pol.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/P/polys_pol.cfm)