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Perennial Fern Information

Lady Fern/ Crested Lady Fern –

(*Athyrium filix-femina*)/(*Athyrium filix-femina* ‘*Vernoniae Crista*’)

Lacy-looking fronds are bright green. Clumps are dense and mounded. An Easy variety for any shady corner, this species will adapt to sunny sites that remains evenly moist. Great for massing. Height 12-24”/ spread 2’

Japanese Painted Fern – (*Athyrium niponicum* ‘*Pictum*’)

Arching fronds are olive green with a handsome metallic-gray and red sheen. Adds a bright touch to the shade garden. Easy to grow and very popular. Color may fade in direct sun. Height: 12-24”/ Spread: 12”

Ostrich Fern – (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

This is the main species of fern harvested for its edible fiddleheads. Plants will form a wide spreading patch of upright triangular green fronds. Perhaps the most common fern grown in gardens, easy to the point of becoming invasive! Good ground cover for steep slopes or damp areas. Native. Height: 3-4’/Spread: 2-3’

Cinnamon Fern – (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)

Large triangular sterile fronds are similar to the Ostrich fern. Fertile fronds are leafless, shooting up from the center of the clump in late spring, in an attractive cinnamon-brown shade. Prefers a lime-free acidic soil. Native. Height: 2 ½ -5’/ Spread 3’.

Interrupted Fern – (*Osmunda claytonia*)

This fern is more tolerant of drier sites than the Cinnamon Fern and is wider in growth Habit. Height: 4-5’/Spread: 4’.

Royal Fern – (*Osmunda regalis*)

A truly unique and spectacular fern. This forms a large crown, sending a ring of arching leathery green fronds. The fertile spore-bearing pinnae are clustered together at the ends of the fronds and mature to a rich golden-brown. Use this as a specimen plant, or for massing. Lime-tolerant, also sun-tolerant on wet sites. Height: 3-5’/ Spread: 3’