



**Aylett Nurseries**  
*The Complete Garden Centre*

# **Ferns & Tree Ferns**

## **Information Leaflet No. 6**



North Orbital Road (A414)  
St. Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL2 1DH  
Tel: 01727 822255  
Fax: 01727 823024  
E-mail: [info@aylettnurseries.co.uk](mailto:info@aylettnurseries.co.uk)  
Web: [www.aylettnurseries.co.uk](http://www.aylettnurseries.co.uk)

## **FERNS**

Ideal for shady areas. Ferns can add useful shape and texture to otherwise dull areas. Many are evergreen, and associate well with other shade lovers such as Hostas and Primulas.

Most require a humus-rich, moist soil, such as moistened peat or compost, and add a little bonemeal, well mixed in.

Our range varies from year to year, but should include the following:-

**ASPLENIUM SCOLOPENDRIUM** – ‘Harts’ Tongue Fern’. Evergreen. Shuttlecock like crown, with long green strap like fronds. Height 45- 70cm Spread 60cm.



ANGUSTIFOLIA – cut-leaved harts tongue fern. Height and spread 45cm.

SCOLOPENDRIUM CRISTATUM – Fronds have crested tips. Height 60cm Spread 80cm.

**ATHYRIUM** – FILIX FEMINA – ‘Lady Fern’ Deciduous fern with ‘shuttlecocks’ of divided fronds. Height 1.2m Spread 90cm.

FRIZELLIAE – ‘Tatting Fern’ Rounded, lacy foliage on long midribs. Height 20cm Spread 30cm.

NIPONICUM PICTUM – ‘Japanese painted Fern’. Fronds have silver grey segments flushed purple-red. Height 75-90cm Spread 90cm

OTOPHORUM OKANUM – Semi evergreen fronds with broad pale green almost glaucous leaves. Height 60cm. Spread 45cm.



**BLECHNUM** – SPICANT – ‘Hard Fern’ Evergreen. Forms rosettes of narrow fronds. Height 20-50cm Spread 60cm.



**CYRTOMIUM** - FORTUNEI – Erect form with pale green fronds and sickle-shaped leaflets. Height 60cm Spread 40cm.

**DRYOPTERIS** – ‘Male Fern’ Mostly deciduous ferns producing shuttlecocks of foliage. We offer the following:-

AFFINS CRISPA – Foliage turns golden brown in autumn. Height 60cm. Spread 45cm.

ERYTHROSORA – Triangular fronds. Copper red when young, turning dark green. Height 75cm Spread 90cm.

FILIX-MAS – Large clumps of lance shaped fronds. Height 1m Spread 1m.

FILIX-MAS LINEARIS POLYDACTYLA – Slender semi-evergreen fern with thin airy fronds. Height 90cm Spread 120cm.

**MATTEUCCIA STRUTHIOPTERIS** – ‘Ostrich Fern’ Deciduous fern of statuesque appearance. Outer shuttlecock of pale green sterile fronds, enclose upright brown fertile fronds. Height 1.7m Spread 1m.

**ONOCLEA SENSIBILIS** – ‘Sensitive Fern’. Deciduous pale green upright fronds. Pink as they emerge. Height 60cm Spread indefinite.



**OSMUNDA REGALIS** – ‘Royal Fern’ Deciduous fern. Forms dense clumps of bright green sterile fronds, with upright tasselled fertile fronds. Good by pond margins. Height 2m Spread 4m.

**POLYPODIUM VULGARE** – Evergreen. With thin leathery leaflets, dimpled on surface. Height 30cm Spread indefinite.

**POLYSTICHUM ACULEATUM** – ‘Hard Shield Fern’ Evergreen fern with glossy dark green fronds with spiny-toothed lobes. Height 60cm Spread 90cm.

POLYBLEPHARUM – ‘Japanese Tassel Fern’ Evergreen. Forming shuttlecocks of dark green fronds, which emerge covered with golden hairs. Height 60-80cm Spread 90cm.

SETIFERUM – ‘Soft Shield Fern’ Evergreen. Soft, bristle toothed lobes. Height 1.2m Spread 90cm.

SETIFERUM CONGESTUM – Evergreen. Very congested fronds. Dwarf habit. Height 15-25cm spread 25cm.

SETIFERUM ‘HERRENHAUSEN’ – Evergreen. Broad spreading fronds. Height 50cm Spread 60cm.

TSUSSIMENSE – (Korean Rock Fern) Evergreen. Narrow spiny toothed leaflets. Height 40cm Spread 40cm.

## EVERGREEN FERNS

ASPLENIUM IN VARIETY  
BLECHNUM IN VARIETY  
CRYPTOMIUM IN VARIETY  
DRYOPTERIS AFF. CRISPA CONGESTA  
POLYPODIUM VULGARE  
POLYSTICHUM IN VARIETY

## TREE FERNS

Dicksonia Antarctica makes a slow growing but dramatic addition to sheltered gardens with bold, textural foliage creating a lush tropical effect. They make excellent container plants, perfect for use on a shady patio.

As the foliage is damaged by cold winds, a sheltered position is essential. Part or dappled shade is preferred, although they will tolerate full shade or full sun. Growing your tree fern in full sun results in much smaller fronds.

They need a moist acid soil. If grown in a pot a half and half mix of ericaceous compost and composted bark gives the best results. The container should not be too wide a space of 8-10cm between the trunk and the rim of the pot is ample.

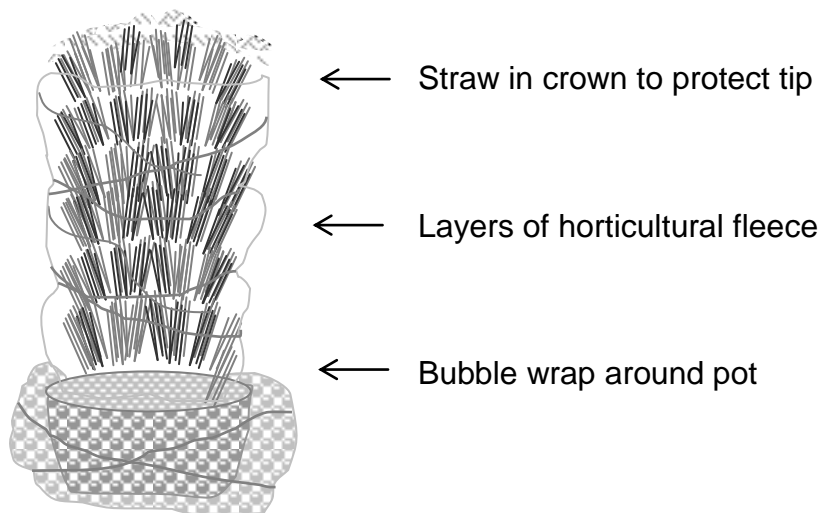
As tree ferns make little root in pots, watering is directed to the crown and trunk. During summer months you will need to water twice daily, and in hot, dry periods, a shallow tray of water placed beneath the plant to increase humidity around the plant will be beneficial. Although they require less watering in winter, the trunk should still be checked for watering during dry spells at weekly intervals.

During the growing season a liquid feed applied once every three weeks is beneficial, applied at half the recommended strength.

Although tree ferns are moderately hardy, it is advisable to give some protection over winter.

Straw packed into the crown will protect the growing tip. The trunk can be protected by wrapping with a double layer of horticultural fleece, and potted specimens can be lagged with hessian or bubble wrap around the container to protect the root system.

Fronds damaged by winter weather are best removed in spring.



**This leaflet is available  
in alternative formats**

Please ask a member of staff or  
Tel: 01727 822255  
Email: [info@aylettnurseries.co.uk](mailto:info@aylettnurseries.co.uk)

Last reviewed January 2016