

Male Wood Fern



The male fern, has been in cultivation in the United States and abroad for many centuries. It was a popular and frequently used medicinal plant curing an assortment of ills and hence a desirable plant for the home garden. Now, however, it is basically a variable ornamental with its value confined to filling in the woodlands.



Dryopteris filix mas

- **Use:** Great for woodland gardens and adding interest to shady mixed plant containers. Not fussy about soil or location, it and its many cultivars can be easily introduced to gardens. Very attractive and deer resistant.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part shade–shade. Use slow release fertilizer two times a year. They prefer moist, rich, well-drained woodland soil. A few species are found in swamps but most do not require wet habitats.
- **Growth:** Will grow 12-24” tall and 18-24” wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 2-8; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; Lanceolate fronds stretch up to 4’ feet on a happy plant.
- **Flower:** None, you will however see brown spores on undersides of leaves in spring as that is their method of reproduction.