

Robust Male Wood Fern



This fern is native to a huge range spanning much of the Northern Hemisphere. This species is a commonplace wood fern in Europe and is also found in scattered locations in North America. It prefers to grow in limestone areas. The genus was classified and named by Austrian botanist Heinrich Schott. It is found in oak forests of Europe, which explains the translation of its name from the Greek for oak fern.



Dryopteris filix-mas 'Robusta'

- **Use:** Strong clumps of dark-green fronds arch gracefully to form a great specimen. It also works well with other plants such as Hostas. 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 3 to 4 feet tall and wide (and maybe up to 5 feet).
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-8; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Semi-evergreen; Produces a flush of new, deep green fronds each spring.
- **Flower:** None, you will however see brown spores on undersides of leaves in spring as that is their method of reproduction.

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