

Eastern Wood Fern



**Evergreen, shade-loving,
and deer resistant**



Dryopteris marginalis

- **Use:** The leathery leaves of *Dryopteris marginalis* are a beautiful addition to the woodland garden and can form a lovely and easy to maintain groundcover. A sturdy east coast native, it forms a tidy clump that will not spread and is very tolerant of dry shade conditions once it has established. Marginal wood fern is often found in shaded crevices of rocky ledges and bluffs from Newfoundland to Georgia, west to Oklahoma and Minnesota.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part shade–shade. Acid, moist, well-drained soil, but not soggy. Use slow release fertilizer two times a year. For best display of *Dryopteris marginalis*, keep it sheltered from strong winds. The fronds are different from other *Dryopteris* because of its twice compound leaflets lending it a more complex appearance. prefer average to moist, rich, well-drained soils in shade or part sun. They tolerate drought very well once established. Needs protection from wind to keep the foliage looking nice. Best planted in masses in the shaded or woodland garden, as an accent or mixed with bulbs and other native perennials.
- **Growth:** Will grow 18” to 24” tall and spreads slowly up to 18” wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5-8 Perennial
- **Foliage:** Evergreen Features grayish-green, deeply cut, leathery fronds (15-20” long). Sori are located at the edges or margins of the pinnule undersides, hence the common name. Rhizome forms an erect crown.
- **Flower:** none