

The King Ostrich Fern



‘The King’ has a gigantic crown and fertile fronds up to 7’ tall that are 50% larger than the native Ostrich Fern. This fern plant adds a dynamic presence to your shade garden. Its height and size make it a focal point in any landscape.

***Matteuccia struthiopteris* ‘The King’**

- **Use:** Large, graceful fronds that resemble ostrich plumes. An excellent fern for woodland gardens and damp areas such as edging around a pond. Thrives better in the hot, humid South where normal Ostrich Ferns fear to tread. Spreads slowly by underground rhizomes.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers part sun to shade. Keep surface of soil moist, but not soggy. Provide humus-rich, moist, but well-drained soil for best performance.
- **Growth:** Moderate-growing 3 to 6 ft. tall and 3 to 5’ wide. Spreads by underground stems.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-8; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; The showy parts of this fern are the finely dissected, medium green, vegetative (sterile) fronds which, as the common name suggests, exhibit the feathery appearance of long ostrich plumes. The vegetative fronds emerge at the narrow base of the clumps in spring as the familiar "fiddleheads" from where they unfurl to a maximum length of 4’.
- **Flower:** Not known for flowers. Has spores under on undersides of leaves in late summer.)