



Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

Plant Description – Native, fern, evergreen, perennial

Height: 1.5 – 2 ft **Width/Spread:** 1.5 – 2 ft



Leaves

Shape: Lanceolate

Arrangement: Whorled

Margin: Dentate

Form: Pinnately Compound

Leaf Description: Fronds (leaves) are dark green, appear glossy or leathery and have stocking-shaped leaflets; fiddleheads (young leaves) appear to have silvery scales when they emerge in spring; reproductive fronds are narrower at the tip and die in winter; sterile fronds remain evergreen; black spores on underside of leaf



Flower/Bloom

Christmas Fern is not a flowering plant

Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Rhizomes/Tubers/Roots & Shoots

Seed Type: Spreads via spores

Months in Seed: Spores released summer – fall

Fruit and Seed Description: no fruit or seeds, reproduces by spores; spores are found in sori on the bottom of the sub leaflets



Ecological Benefits

White-tailed deer browse leaves during summer; can provide significant cover for wildlife; provides groundcover in the winter; songbirds use plant parts for nest materials in the spring

Maintenance Notes

Not dormant in winter; Fronds remain dark, glossy green in the winter; Prefers average watering (*water two times per week during the summer and once per week during the rest of the year*)