



Ostrich Fern

Matteuccia struthiopteris

Growing Information

- Plant Type: Perennial
- Sunlight: Shade, part shade
- Soils: Moist, rich
- Bloom Time: Non-flowering
- Size: 2-3 feet in height; 2-4 foot spread

Ostrich Fern fronds look like ostrich feathers and provide a striking bright green display as a background planting. The tall size of this fern allows use as a foundation planting on the northern side. With rich moist soils in a shady location, it can form a colony. Fiddleheads are edible. Deer resistant.

Garden Companions

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), Cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

Nature Benefits

- Larval host for several moth species.
- Fiddleheads offer food for herbivores.

Natural Habitat

Occurs in rich woods, swamps, river or lake shores.