



Photo credit: Craig Macdonald

Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

Growing Information

- Sunlight: Part to full shade
- Soils: Medium to Moist, well-drained
- Bloom Time: Not a flowering plant
- Size: 1-2ft in height

This glossy green leathery fern is green year-round. It grows in clumps. Silvery fiddleheads appear in spring. It grows happily in the Cape's sandy soils but likes it moist and shady. It will grow successfully under walnut trees. Great choice for accent, borders, mass planting as a groundcover, or as a potted plant.

Garden Companions

Violets (*Viola sororia*), Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Nature Benefits

- Provides winter cover.
- Songbirds use parts of the plant for nesting material.

Natural Habitat

Occurs in woods, stream banks, swamps, and thickets.