

Plant in the spotlight #2

May 2018

Dryopteris

In this newsletter we would like to draw your attention to our beautiful *Dryopteris* species in our assortment. The genus *Dryopteris* is very large; it has over 225 species and about 77 hybrids. It holds the largest number of excellent ferns of which most are winter hardy in zone 7. There is one for every garden. Fortunately they do not spread out quickly in gardens and have short rhizomes, which result in beautiful compact clumps. After a few years it is necessary to split the plants in order to keep them in good health. Once the plant has established in the garden this genus will thrive well in dry conditions. The name comes from Greek and means “forest fern”.

A feature of many species of this group is their scaly leaf stem, which ranges in different colours from: bronze, gold, brown to black, therefore you will get beautiful displays of unrolling fronds in springtime.

Dryopteris atrata

A beautiful solitary fern: height up to 1 metre. The leaf stem is covered in black scales; the way the fronds unroll reminds us of an elephant trunk, very exciting and decorative! The combination of these dark-unrolling “trunks” with pastel coloured spring flowers is amazing.



Dryopteris championii

An evergreen winter hardy fern: height up to 90 cm. This fern is one of the best *Dryopteris* species in wintertime; a hardy plant with dark green leaves which really deserves a prominent place in your border. In spring time new beautiful apple green fronds appear. An ideal fern for beginners.

***Dryopteris erythrosora* “Compact”**

A more compact version of the top 10 best known ferns for your garden; winter hardy height up to 1 metre. Up to summer the young fronds remain copper coloured and gradually change into a dark beautiful green. Whereas normally the *Dryopteris erythrosora* fans out and usually doesn't retain its shape, this compact version looks fuller and more robust.



***Dryopteris filix-mas* “Barnesii”**

This strong vertical selection of *Dryopteris filix-mas* has long narrow leaves, grows gently and is not invasive. When established this *Dryopteris* specie withstands drought the best. Old leaves should be left on the ground as they function as ground cover and soil improver.



Dryopteris kuratae

This specie resembles the *Dryopteris pycnopteroides* and can grow up to 1 metre in height. This fern is highly recommended due to the remarkable manner it unfolds its new fronds: it feels like you're in a film by Steven Spielberg. A primary fern with dinosaur-like tentacles.



Dryopteris lepidopoda

This fern is winter hardy and grows up to 1 metre in height. It resembles the *Dryopteris Wallichiana*, however this one has beautiful young leaves in various shades ranging from salmon, orange, pink to bronze and gradually changes into a glossy dark green shade. Its English trivial name “Sunset fern” is very appropriate.

Dryopteris pseudo-filix-mas

A beautiful large fern: height up to 130 cm. John Mickel took this fern from Mexico and introduced it in the USA. Beautiful clump formed fern, which thrives well in extreme weather conditions; like hot humid summers or in extreme cold winters. New young leaves appear in the early frost. When planting, this fern prefers moisten humus-rich soil, but once established it thrives perfectly well in drought conditions.



Dryopteris pseudo-filix-mas

Dryopteris stewartii

This popular garden fern comes from the east coast of the USA.

This very bushy fern height up to 130 cm appears early in springtime and looks exceptional pretty in a mixed border.