

Matteuccia struthiopteris

Ostrich Fern



Large and vase-shaped with beautifully textured fronds, Ostrich Fern creates a dramatic effect in the shade garden.

Characteristics	
Height: 3–6 feet	
Spread: 5–8 feet	
Bloom color: Non-flowering	
Attributes	
Deciduous perennial in upright & arching clumps	
Fiddleheads emerge in spring and unfurl to medium green, finely divided, arching 5-foot sterile fronds, which die back in the fall	
Green fertile fronds emerge in summer, maturing to dark brown, erect and 1½ feet tall; they can persist for a year and release spores in early spring	
Fiddleheads are harvested in early spring and sold as gourmet food; often prepared like asparagus	
Provides protective cover for wildlife	
Growing and Maintenance	
Soil requirements: Humus-rich, acidic	Native Range Northern region of North American, including Alaska; in US, west to the Dakotas, south to Virginia and Missouri
Light requirements: Part shade to shade	
Water requirements: Moist, wet	
Tolerates clay soil, dense shade, erosion, rabbits, and deer; spreads by underground rhizomes and can form large colonies under favorable conditions	
Use as dramatic accent in large woodland gardens or wet areas with room to spread; stabilizes soils along stream	Found in moist rich woodlands, low areas along woodland borders, swamps, and soggy thickets

Developed by Black Swamp Conservancy

References listed at www.blackswamp.org/factsheetreferences/

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