



Emerald Goddess Gardens

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- Botanical Name: *Dryopteris erythrosora*
- Common Name: Autumn Fern
- Plant Family: Dryopteridaceae
- Mature Size: 24 inches
- Growth Habit: Clumping
- Bloom Color: N/A
- Bloom Form: N/A
- Bloom Time: N/A
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Shade
- Recommended Zones: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- Key Features: Seasonal Color, Low Maintenance, Shade Loving
- Suggested Uses: Shade Garden Ground Cover, Atrium Decor
- Growers Notes : Autumn fern spreads underground, prune below soil regularly to contain growth.



Dryopteris erythrosora or Autumn Fern is an elegant low growing fern that often acts as a groundcover in heavily shaded areas. This fern's growth habit lends it to easily covering the ground with its frilly fronds that emerge auburn in color and develop to dark green over time. Autumn Fern's easy to grow nature has made it a popular choice in atriums and other indoor spaces with high humidity as it requires very little maintenance and is drought tolerant once established.

As seasons change and weather begins to cool during fall, these ferns produce new fronds that are a beautiful burnt orange tone and add an autumn feel to the landscape, hence their name. Once Autumn Fern has had a chance mature in its pot or soil if planted in the ground, it is considered a drought tolerant plant. To achieve the best year-round appearance, this plant should be grown in heavy shade with bright indirect light.

Direct planting of 4 inch starters is not recommended. For success with your new Autumn Fern follow these helpful tips:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in dappled shade
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information. The absence of information does not mean or imply that a plant is not toxic, only that no information is generally known by us.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.

Care of Your New Shade Garden Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately plant or repot the new plant into a prepared bed or a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate in light to moderate shade. This plant must be protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water. If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over, or adapted to growing indoors year round in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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