Dwarf Tree Fern

Blechnum gibbum

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Silver Lady Fern

Description:

This shade loving dwarf tree fern produces long green fronds that arch gracefully from its short trunk, that forms over time; perfect for shaded areas of the garden or containers; never allow to dry out completely, but be careful not to overwater

Ornamental Features

Dwarf Tree Fern's glossy ferny bipinnately compound leaves remain green in color throughout the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Dwarf Tree Fern is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Dwarf Tree Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Dwarf Tree Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Dwarf Tree Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Dwarf Tree Fern will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Dwarf Tree Fern is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.