

# Japanese Painted Fern

## *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum'

Japanese painted fern is one of the most popular cultivated ferns. Though the plant is petite in size, Japanese painted fern provides outstanding texture and color in the shade garden with metallic, silver-gray fronds accented with just a touch of burgundy red and a hint of blue. It is a deciduous fern with a weeping habit which typically grows to 18" tall and features a slowly spreading clump of triangular, variegated fronds to 20" long. Japanese painted fern will adapt to nearly any level of shade, but the most attractive foliage color is displayed in light shade. Easily grown in organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soil in part shade to full shade. It's best sited in sheltered locations. Soil must not be allowed to dry out. Naturalizes well by short, branching rhizomes and can form dense colonies in optimum growing conditions. Synonymous with and sometime sold as *Athyrium goeringianum* 'Pictum'.

**Type:** fern

**USDA hardiness zones:** 3 through 8

**Uses:** woodland gardens; shade gardens; shaded border fronts; shaded areas along streams or ponds

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Height:** 12 to 18 inches   **Spread:** 12 to 18 inches

**Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches

**Light requirement:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil tolerances:** acid to slightly alkaline; clay; sand; loam

**Drought tolerance:** low

**Soil salt tolerances:** moderate

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** no serious insect or disease

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Photo: UF/ IFAS