



Santa Rosa County Cooperative Extension Teaching and Demonstration Gardens



American Royal Fern Osmunda Spectabilis

American royal fern, *Osmunda Spectabilis*, grows 2 to 5 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide. This plant can be clump forming which also provides shelter for small mammals. This fern is native to North, Central, and South America. In the fall the leaves change with the seasons from a lively green to a beautiful golden-brown. The American royal fern prefers part shade to full sun and acidic, moist, humus-rich soil. Like many ferns, it needs consistent moisture and does not do well in periods of drought. Perfect for a shade, fern, or native garden, this plant is an easy and pest-resistant choice for many gardens.

Type: deciduous perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 2 through 10

Uses: perfect for native, fern, and shade

gardens

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 2 to 5 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Light requirement: shade to full sun

Soil preference: acidic, moist, humus-rich

Drought tolerance: low

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Invasive potential: not invasive

MORE INFORMATION



Frances Andrews. United States, Florida, Santa Rosa Co.