

Dryopteris marginalis

Marginal Wood Fern

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Found* in woodlands and on rocky slopes and ledges, evergreen Marginal Wood Fern provides year round interest. It is monomorphic so its fronds (leaves) are the same size and shape, whether or not the leaf underside bears sori, the spore-producing receptacles. Sori placement along the pinnule margins give rise to the species epithet and common name.



Fern	Fiddleheads, Pinnae/Pinnules, Sori, Clump
Height: 1–3 feet	 
Spread: 1½–2 feet	
Bloom Color: Non-flowering	
Characteristics	
Evergreen perennial forming vase-shaped clump	
Fiddleheads emerge in early spring covered with ramenta (brown scales)	
Compound, yellow-to-blue green fronds (leaves) with pinnate-pinnatifid to bipinnate dissection	
Round sori located on the outer edges of pinnule undersides from June to October	
Grows from vertical rhizomes ; well-behaved; infrequently forms colonies	
Attributes	
Tolerates dense shade and rabbits	
No serious pests or diseases	
Deer rarely damage	
Winter interest	
Provides cover for birds and other animals	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Average to acidic, well-drained	<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i> - Autumn Fern
Light Requirements : Partial Shade, Shade	<i>Hedera helix</i> - English Ivy
Water Requirements : Dry, Moist	<i>Liriope spicata</i> - Creeping Lily-Turf
Low maintenance and easily transplanted	<i>Vinca minor</i> - Periwinkle
Use as an accent or edging plant, in shaded borders or native, rock, or woodland gardens	*It is native to DC. In DE, it is uncommon in the Piedmont and extremely rare in the Coastal Plain. It is reported mostly in MD's northern and western counties and is scattered throughout PA. In VA, it is common in the mountains and inner Piedmont, infrequent in the outer Piedmont, and rare in the Coastal Plain.
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3–8	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills and and Mary Free (top right), private gardens, Arlington, VA