



## *Dryopteris erythrosora*

*Dryopteris erythrosora*, the **autumn fern** or **Japanese shield fern**,<sup>[1]</sup> is a species of fern in the family Dryopteridaceae, native to east Asia from China and Japan south to the Philippines, growing in light woodland shade on low mountains or hills.



### Etymology

The specific epithet *erythrosora* comes from ancient Greek, meaning "having red spore cases", which refers to the color of the spore cases.

### Description



Closeup

It is semi-evergreen (in cooler climates), with bipinnate fronds 30–70 cm (12–28 in) tall by 15–35 cm (6–14 in) broad, with 8–20 pairs of pinnae. The fronds have a coppery tint when young, but mature to dark green. It has an upright to down-lying rhizome which is thick and branched, so that it forms several crowns.

The leaves are funnel-shaped with the top ones being leathery shiny, divided twice, triangular in shape and pointy. The individual leaflets are narrow lanceolate. Its edge is almost completely serrated.

The leaf stalks are about a third as long as the leaf, striated, yellow to red, with linear to lancet-shaped brown scales, containing two large and several small vascular bundles in a cross-sectional drawing.

When budding, the young fronds are coppery red and later green. There can also be several leaf outlets per year. The spores, which are kidney-shaped, become ripe between summer and autumn.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Cultivation

#### *Dryopteris erythrosora*



#### Scientific classification

Kingdom:	<u>Plantae</u>
<i>Clade</i> :	<u>Tracheophytes</u>
Class:	<u>Polypodiopsida</u>
Order:	<u>Polypodiales</u>
Suborder:	<u>Polypodiineae</u>
Family:	<u>Dryopteridaceae</u>
Genus:	<u><i>Dryopteris</i></u>
Species:	<b><i>D. erythrosora</i></b>

#### Binomial name

***Dryopteris erythrosora***

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*Dryopteris erythrosora* can tolerate a drier soil than many ferns, but is most successful in moist, humus-rich soil, with a pH range of 6.1 to 7.5, with morning or late afternoon sunshine but not during the middle of the day. It is hardy zones 5 to 11. Numerous cultivars have been selected, including 'Prolifica' and 'Viridosora'. Propagation is by division in spring, separating the small crowns from the larger crowns, or by spores. It is raised as an ornamental plant in gardens because of its color change in the foliage, which change from dark red to dark green, but not very often.

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