

Botanical Name: Polystichum munitum

Common Name: Western sword fern

Type of Plant: fern: perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape clumping, arching fern with stiff, leathery, dark green fronds which resemble large Boston fern fronds; forms a slowly spreading clump which does not spread by runners

Height 3 to 5' Spread 3 to 5' Growth Rate slow to moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoor shade is preferred

Soil prefers a rich, well amended organic soil

Hardiness hardy (all zones)

Morphology:

Leaves pinnately compound, to 4' long and 10" across; pinnae linear with sharp teeth near tips; petioles to 2' long

Flowers none

Fruit brown sori; sub-marginal

Propagation: spore

Usage: good large scale groundcover in woodland landscapes, also good for cut foliage; good mixed with redwoods or other conifer trees; looks best where coastal fog contributes humidity

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers ample water; not drought tolerant

Fertilizing low nitrogen fertilizer in spring

Pruning remove dead fronds

Pests/Diseases none

Special Conditions wash or mist foliage regularly for best appearance

Origin: West No. America Family: Polypodiaceae