

Botanical Name: Todea barbara

Common Name: Grape fern, Australian king fern

Type of Plant: fern: perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape large, squat tree fern with a thick trunk and a multi-crowned branch structure, coarse fronds have blackish, hairy fibers extending part way up petioles

Height 2-5' Spread 6-7' Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors partial shade to full shade

Soil tolerant of most soils, prefers a well-amended soil

Hardiness some frost (zones 18-24)

Morphology:

Leaves dark green, to 2' long, bi-pinnately compound on long petioles--trunk and lower petioles covered w/black wiry fibrous hairs

Flowers none

Fruit small linear sori in "V" shaped patterns, ripe when green

Propagation: spore

Usage: good in tropical landscapes, forest style landscapes, as a specimen, container plant or large accent fern--very adaptable to most soil and climatic conditions

Landscape Care:

Watering likes regular watering -- do not allow to become dried out

Fertilizing slow-release at planting, organic fertilizer during growing season

Pruning remove dead fronds

Pests/Diseases none

Special Conditions

Origin: Australia/New Zealand Family: Osmundaceae