American Royal Fern

Add royalty to your garden with this shade-loving, and deer resistant fern.

**Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis**

- **Use:** The American Royal Fern is a spectacular, majestic fern that thrives in bogs and wet areas where it frequently reaches four feet or more. It is not limited to life in swamps, however, and when kept moist grows well in the shady garden although it will be more modest in size. It will happily tolerate almost full sun as well in northern climates. Look for it as a dominant plant in botanical garden waterside plantings. As a truly ancient deciduous species it carries its green spores on separate stalks which will persist as tan frond tops. Although most happy along a waterway, this fern will adapt to the hosta garden and add character next to some large hostas. Would look great in a sporadic mass amongst large and giant hostas.

- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers filtered shade in moist humus rich soil. May tolerate more sun with lots of moisture. Use slow release fertilizer two times a year.

- **Growth:** Fronds (leaves) growing up to 2-5’ long and a foot wide

- **Hardiness:** Zone 2-10

- **Foliage:** Deciduous. The fertile fronds of the royal fern are brazenly exposed in public and appear as bronze spears emerging from the center of the clump in spring.

- **Flower:** None

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