

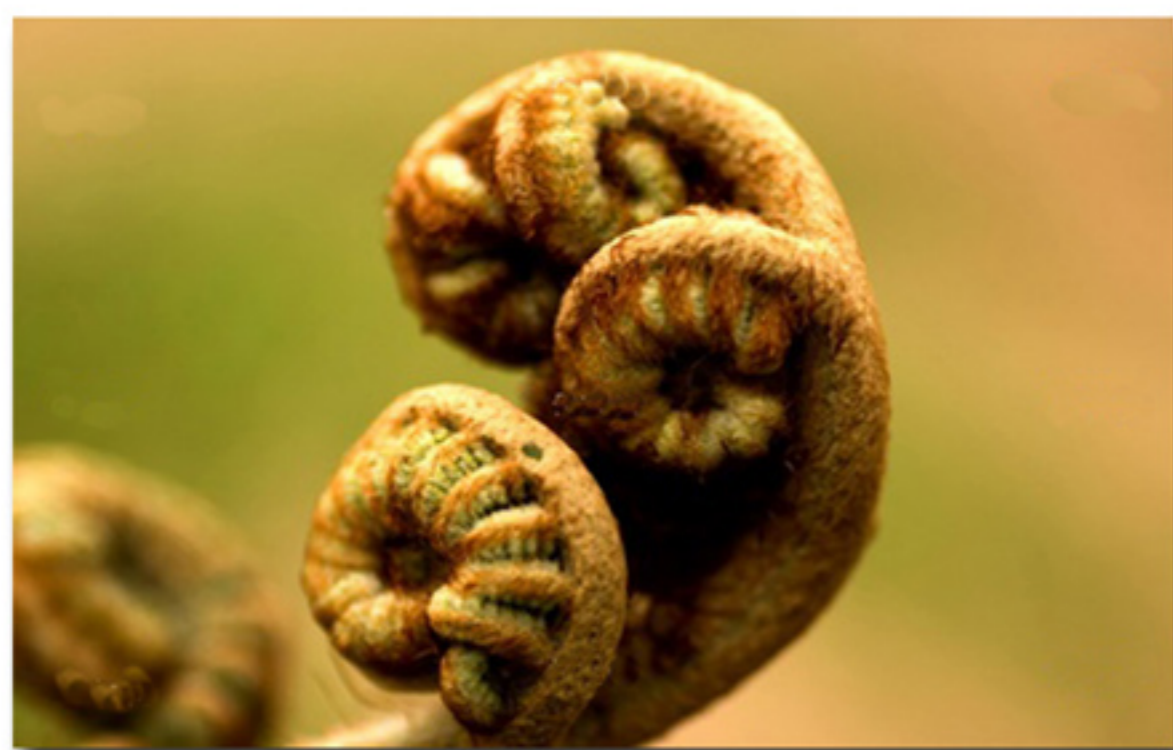
Swarkestone Nursery

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Guide to Tree Ferns

This extraordinary and ancient plant, is native to New Zealand, Australia and Tazmania.

The genera are of wide geographical range, mostly within the tropics; but South Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific island all possess their tree ferns. In Tazmania Tree Ferns have been found upto snow level and in the humid and mountainous regions of the Tropics Tree-Ferns are found to range up to a very high altitude



Dicksonia antarctica is by far the best choice for this country, perfect for a shaded garden or terrace. The trunk itself is slow to gain height, just one inch a year but the new fronds will grow several inches in one day !

Dicksonia antarctica is best suited to a sheltered, humid enviroment, protected from strong drying winds. Plant just enought of the truck to ensure the plant is stable, in a damp, lightly shaded area in a humus-rich, neutral to slightly acid soil but avoid planting in a frost pocket.

The truck is actually a bundle of roots and this should be watered daily in dry weather for maximum growth. A professional tip is where the centre of the crown forms a well , fill with a hose and this should be allowed to overflow and run down the truck.



Avoid feeding in the first year, this is to encourage good rooting and in subsequent years apply a dilute liquid feed once a month, when in growth, to the fronds and trunk. Alternatively apply a controlled-release fertiliser, such as Westland`s "Feed All" slow release fertiliser around the base in Spring. Also a good tip is to apply generous applications of well rotted organic matter around the base and lots of water.

Dicksonia antarctica is classed as hardy, it is said to withstand upto -18C but in frosts the fronds will be lost each year, only to regrow in the Spring. A ball of hay or frost protection material, trust down inside the crown of the trunk in

December will keep the frosts off the new fronds

Larger plants will survive colder winters but smaller plants would need some protection, again hay or frost protection material wrapped around the trunk, a water-proof hat to protect the crown and a mulch of bark around the base of the trunk to protect any newly formed roots.