Godzilla Giant Japanese Painted Fern - New For 2026!

Athyrium 'Godzilla'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Crested Japanese Painted Fern

Description:

A massive, arching clump of silvery fronds with green highlights and purple stems; prefers moist, loamy soils; a great filler for shady borders

Ornamental Features

Godzilla Giant Japanese Painted Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive ferny bipinnately compound leaves emerge antique red in spring, turning olive green in colour with showy silver variegation throughout the season. The purple stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Godzilla Giant Japanese Painted Fern is a dense herbaceous perennial with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Godzilla Giant Japanese Painted Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens



Godzilla Giant Japanese Painted Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Godzilla Giant Japanese Painted Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Godzilla Giant Japanese Painted Fern will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.