



Tasmanian Tree Fern

Dicksonia antarctica 12x15 Z8 E

***Dicksonia antarctica*, or Tasmanian Tree Fern - located in Jungle Bed Zones 8-11 Slow-growing Full Shade, part shade Evergreen Water trunk regularly Resents dry soil 12'x15' Stake when first planted**

The dark brown trunk of *Dicksonia antarctica* holds a spreading crown of feathery, arching bright green fronds with a fine, lacy texture that reach 3 to 6 feet long.

Water abundantly in hot weather. Keep away from hot or persistent winds. In winter protect the crown by wrapping it up with straw, dead fronds or fleece. The tree fern does best in moist soil.

The Tasmanian Tree Fern lives through being shipped from Australia to Europe, which takes seven weeks in a container. Most remarkable of all, it can survive being saw off at ground level as a mature tree up to 20 feet in height. The severed plant has no roots apart from those on the trunk. When, in due course, the trunk is planted on the other side of the world, it produces new fronds in 4-6 weeks and within a year has rooted into its new growing medium. The survival rate is estimated to be 99% - the failures were down to mistakes by the growers.

Larger tree ferns can be left out over winter but need protection in zone 8 or colder. The ring of fronds at the top of the trunk forms a funnel that leads down into the trunk as low as the meristem (the bud tissue in the crown). This funnel will readily collect water. To prevent this from happening, stuff it with straw to about 6 inches above the top of the trunk. This keeps the

meristem warmer and excludes the worst of the winter wet, greatly reducing the risk of a block of ice forming in the crown. In mild winter this is sufficient protection for large plants of 1.2m (4 feet) or taller. For shorter, younger tree ferns should be wrapped in insulating material around the top of the trunk - in addition to the straw.

If the specimen is purchased as a log, soak the base of the trunk for a few minutes prior planting. If it is to be planted out in the garden, select a shady spot, protected from the wind. In less suitable conditions these tree ferns tend to produce shorter fronds. Plant the log so that as little as possible is buried, while ensuring that it will not topple over – as these tree ferns are priced according to the length of the trunk.

Once the trunk is firmly in position, water it copiously all over and around the trunk. It is not recommended to fill the crown with water, especially if the weather is cold and damp, as this practice could encourage rot. Keep the log watered daily if possible until the new leaves have emerged and expanded. A well-watered tree fern produces larger fronds and generally will be better set up for the next season.

<https://www.monrovia.com/tasmanian-tree-fern.html>

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/delphinium/new-millennium-pink-punch-hybrid-bee-delphinium-delphinium-hybrid>

<https://www.plantsrescue.com/dicksonia-antarctica/>