

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



## ***Osmunda cinnamomea* – Cinnamon Fern**

COMMON NAME: Cinnamon Fern

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Osmunda cinnamomea* - The origin is uncertain, but might refer to the Saxon god Osmunder the Waterman, who hid his family in a clump of these ferns. And *cinnamomea* comes from the Latin for cinnamon, the color of the spores born on the fertile frond.

REPRODUCTION: Bears its spores in late May. The spores are short lived. These spores are borne on a separate frond from the sterile "leaves."

SIZE: Large plant up to 5 feet tall.

BEHAVIOR: Forms dense brush-like masses with a dozen or more groups of fronds growing from the crown. The fertile fronds are in the center.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Wet areas, marshes, thickets, wet fields, ditches. Likes muddy soil with pH 4 to slightly acid, pH 6.5. Prefers light shade.

SPECIAL FEATURES: A very beautiful, tall, graceful fern. Fronds are bright green turning yellow and then bronze in the fall. In dense shade the fronds have pinkish stems. The fiddleheads are covered with dense white fuzz that later turns brown and falls off. Birds use this fuzz as nesting material.

NATURAL RANGE: Throughout Wisconsin. From Newfoundland to Minnesota and south to the Gulf States. Varieties occur in tropical America and in eastern Asia.

SUGGESTED CARE: Provide ample moisture, fine loamy soil, and light to moderate shade.

COMPANION PLANTS: In boggy sites found with Goldthread, Spinulose Shield Fern, Winterberry, Royal Fern, Black Chokeberry, and Dewberry. At springs it is found with Marsh Marigold, Marsh Shield Fern, Boneset, Swamp Goldenrod and Skunk Cabbage.