

# CINNAMON FERN

*Osmunda cinnamomea*



This spectacular fern requires a semi-shady site and consistently moist soil. With winter freezes, the fronds die back to the ground and reappear in the spring.

The fronds of cinnamon fern occur in groups, rising from a shallow, black rootstock. Fertile fronds appear first as silvery, furry fiddleheads, ultimately becoming stiff, erect, and covered with specialized pinnae, which turn their upper portions into a thick spike of fruit dots – turning from green to chocolate brown. Sterile (green) fronds bend outwards forming a vase-shaped circle enclosing the cinnamon fronds. The fern can reach a height of 6 ft.

The contrasting stature of fertile and infertile fronds can make for dramatic accents in a landscape.