



Dicksonia antarctica Tree Fern Care.

The following will be of use to ensure that your tree fern log has the best possible start.

- Take care on opening. The netting is best cut at the base of the container and pulled upwards to remove. Please be careful as you can easily snag the trunk and make it more difficult.
- These Tree ferns have come from Tasmania or Victoria at the end of the Australian Summer and may have had the fronds removed for shipping. The new croziers are packed inside the trunk ready to unfurl when watered well and when the temperature increases (3-4 weeks after watering in Spring)
- Dicksonia grow well in either pots or straight in the ground. If growing in a pot, please make sure that the base of the pot is large enough to support the weight of the trunk and fronds otherwise the plant will keep falling over.
- When planting in the ground, the trunk should be sunk just low enough to support the weight without falling over. The entire trunk is a mass of roots and large roots will form at the base solely for the purpose of anchoring the fern in place.
- Water regularly during the growing season from the **TOP** of the trunk (crown) and ensure that the crown is always moist. During this time, fertilise monthly with a half strength liquid feed directly into the crown.
- In winter, protect the crown from frost by stuffing straw/horticultural fleece into the centre of the crown to protect next years' croziers.

Picture below....



■ If you live anywhere that experiences harsher winters, it is advisable to wrap the entire trunk with horticultural fleece (available readily in garden centres), hessian or similar and tie this years leaves up with string to protect further.

■ The following Spring, remove the protection and dead fronds/growth in preparation for the new fronds to unfurl.

■ The trunks of Dicksonia are very slow growing and you can expect about 30cm (1 foot) of trunk growth every 10 years. The fronds are the opposite and grow very quickly once the croziers have started to unfurl.

■ This Tree Fern grows best in part-shade (their natural habitat is under the canopy of large trees) although Dicksonia grow well in full-sun but require more water. If you do not provide sufficient water or fertilise monthly, the plant will still grow but at a slower rate and next years' growth and size of fronds can be up to half the size!

■ Occasionally (approximately 3%), in their first year, tree ferns may only produce a few fronds but will produce a lush display the following year. This is because they have been recently harvested in Australia and need time to settle into their new environment.

Please have a look at www.easytropicals.com for companion ideas & a general hardiness guide. If you have any questions please email for a prompt reply.

Many thanks for looking.