

Dryopteris cristata (L.) A. Gray

Crested Buckler-fern

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Dryopteridaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Critically Endangered

Habit

Deciduous fern.

Habitat

Mildly acidic 'floating' fens that develop within or from more base-rich fens. It is characteristic of *Sphagnum* lawns, where it can tolerate the shade of invading *Phragmites*, and *Salix* and *Betula* scrub.

Reasons for decline

Drainage, scrub encroachment and loss of mown fen.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	Norfolk	5	
	Berkshire	1	

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Roamer House
- 2 Cambridge University Botanic Garden
- 3 The Harris Garden
- 4 Windsor, The Savill & Valley Gardens

Gardens with specialisation on genus *Dryopteris*

Chelsea Physic Garden

RHS Harlow Carr

Potential to grow the species in ex situ Collections

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Spores - can be sown at any time of the year in a greenhouse. Surface sow on a sterilised compost and keep moist, possibly by placing the pot in a plastic bag. Germinates in 1 - 3 months at 20°C. Pot up small clumps of the plants when they are large enough to handle and grow on in a shady part of the greenhouse until large enough to plant out.

Division in spring. Larger clumps can be replanted direct into their permanent positions, though it is best to pot up smaller clumps and grow them on in a cold frame until they are rooting well. Plant them out in the spring.

- Cultivation

Prefers an acid to neutral soil, succeeding in ordinary fertile soil in a shady position. Succeeds in full sun but grows best in a shady position with only 2 - 3 hours sun per day. Tolerates a pH range from 4.5 to 7. Dislikes heavy clay. Prefers a good supply of water at its roots but succeeds in dry shade and tolerates drought when it is established.

A very hardy plant, tolerating temperatures down to about -30°C.

Members of this genus are rarely if ever troubled by browsing deer.

Hybridizes in the wild with several other species.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

Designated LBAPs with records for *D. cristata* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Habitat Management

Protected sites with records for *D. cristata* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- Plants For A Future database: http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Dryopteris+cristata&CAN=LATIND
- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>