

Broad Buckler-fern

Dryopteris dilatata

Plants · Semi-evergreen fern



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A large, spreading fern with broad, triangular, three-times-divided fronds giving a lacier look than male fern, and — the reliable identifying feature — pale brown scales on the stalk each carrying a dark central stripe. Broad buckler-fern is common in damp woodland, on shaded banks, in conifer plantation and on moorland edge around Dumfries.

BEHAVIOUR

It tolerates acidic, peaty and boggy ground better than most large ferns, which is why it is so abundant in the region's conifer plantations and wet oakwoods, often growing on rotting stumps and among boulders. Fronds are semi-evergreen, persisting in a battered state through a mild winter. Spores are borne in kidney-shaped clusters beneath.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Wood ferns (Dryopteridaceae)
FROND	50–150 cm, broadly triangular
STATUS	Native; abundant on acid and peaty ground

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