Polystichum munitum Western Sword Fern

PERENNIAL FERN - evergreen 3 - 5' high, upright. Clumps spreading from rhizomes. Large feathery, dark green fronds.

Native habitat: coniferous forests - damp woods below 2500' - near coast north of Monterey, and Santa Cruz Island.

Part shade to full shade.

Frost tolerant although leaves may turn brown or die back. Best in humus rich soil with ample water, but can survive without much summer water.

Most adaptable of native California ferns. Good as background, in shade border, under oak trees.