PLANT FACT SHEET

Alsophila woollsiana F. von Mueller

GENUS *Alsophila* **FAMILY** Cyatheaceae

COMMON NAMES Woolly tree fern

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bud, Fronds, Leaves

The soft growing tip at the top of the trunk can be cooked and eaten. It is washed to remove tannins.
This would kill the plant.
The young fronds are also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A stout tree fern. It grows to 6-7 m tall. The trunk is woody and 15-18 cm across. The fronds are 2 m long by 0.6 m wide. They are shiny green and finely divided. They are usually divided twice. The stalks are pale brown and covered with warts and bristly scales. The base remain and may stick out from the trunk. The spore groups are in 2 rows.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in the rainforests of Northeast Queensland in Australia. It needs a shady protected position. It grows up to 1200 m altitude. It will grow in cooler places. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

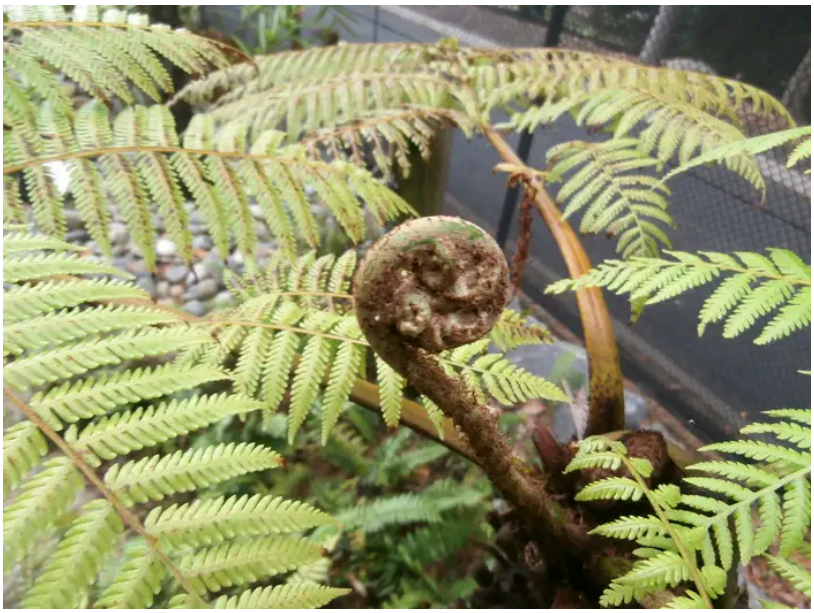
Cultivation

It can be grown from spores.

NOTES

There are about 800 Cyathea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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