



We are pleased to introduce our first ONPN Fern Feature.

Following our successful April Fern Seminar, we have decided to keep our native fern enthusiasts in touch.

## Tips from the Fernery

**Now is a great time to plant ferns.** The ground is moist, and warming. There is time for them to established before their fronds reach their optimum summer growth.

**It is time to trim off old discoloured fronds** and sprinkle a moderate amount of slow-release fertiliser within the drip line to promote vigorous new growth.

**The Auckland winter has been wet**, wet, wet and fairly mild with few frosts. Time to keep an eye out for **slugs and snails** that are most active in moist weather and may not have been frost-culled. They feed at night leaving ragged holes or bare stalks doing irreparable damage to the growing crowns and unfurling fronds.

**The only really effective treatment** is to carefully and regularly spread slug and snail bait pellets (alternate between metaldehyde and methiocarb based products to minimise development of resistant pests).



You may wish to try **non-chemical control methods.**

Squash; drop in salt water; clear away hiding places (debris and weeds); cultivate soil to expose and disturb eggs; protect plants with cloches and sand barriers

**organic controls:**

Lure into traps containing beer, attractive women, or yeast and sugar; spray plants with "slug off" repellent.

*There is always an open invitation at ONPN to visit and explore the nursery and grounds.*

*Enjoy what we call "enviro-therapy"!*

*Of course you MUST check out the fernery. See if you can spot the new additions to our large and growing collection.*

*- Barb*

### FEATURE PLANT: *Christella dentata*

My current favourite fern! It stays tidy, lush and attractive during the winter months and is now showing vigorous new spring promise.

A soft, elegant, endangered fern found naturally in New Zealand at just 2 swampy sites in the far North with a second form occurring around thermal regions in the central North Island.

Despite its nationally critical status, it is easily grown in cultivation. It enjoys warm sheltered gardens in almost any soil and moisture regime but is frost sensitive and needs moderate shade.

Numerous tufts of pinnate fronds up to 2m long form from a stout, creeping rhizome. The fronds are a dusty pale green to yellow green.

This is must for any discerning, conservation-aware gardener's collection! We are pleased to offer healthy stocks raised from spore.



*C. dentata* makes a stunning feature plant for a large pot in a sheltered, shaded situation outdoors

Refer to the ONPN Reference Guide for cultivation details.

**Also check out related ferns** we have available:

*Cyclosorus interruptus* - in gradual decline in the wild. Grows in similar conditions to *C. dentata*

*Thelypteris confluens* - also in gradual decline. A peat bog swamp fern that tolerates full sun

*Pneumatopteris pennigera* - "gully fern". Needs shade and moisture and forms a small trunk.