

## Economic Importance of Pteridophytes

1. Lycopodium obscurum, commonly known as Christmas green, and used as garland during Christmas, and for decoration.
2. Species of Lycopodium is widely used in homeopathic system of medicine.
3. From the spores of L. inundatum 50% fixed oil are obtained, which are used as cover for pills. The oils are also used in the manufacture of fire works.
4. The spores are also used during theatrical performance for producing stage lightening, under the name of 'Vegetable Brimstone'.
5. The spore dust of L. clavatum and other species are used in pharmacy as water repellent. Dusting spore powder on the soft skin gives protection.
6. Spore dust are also used in the preparation of suppositories.
6. The beautiful species L. volubile is very commonly used for table decoration.
7. Extracts of Lycopodium was used as a stimulant for kidney.

8. Selaginella is also used as Christmas decoration plant. They are considered as ornamental plant.
9. S. willdenovii and S. caesia are important for their metallic and different tinge other than the principal colour, specially bronze and bluish colour.
10. S. serpens is famous for the periodic changes in the colour of its leaves, which are bright green in the ~~morning~~ morning, but slowly become paler during the day and towards night again, they regain their beautiful green colour.
11. S. lepidophylla and S. pilifera are sold as curiosities, under the name of 'resurrection plants'!
12. S. botryoides yields a medicine which is used in curing liver diseases.
13. The underground modified stem of Isaetes, is used by ducks and other aquatic animals.
14. The genus Equisetum is of much economical importance.



15. The stem of most species are used for polishing wood, floor, furniture and to clean utensils.
16. Many species of Equisetum acts as harmful weeds in poorly drained soils.
17. The complete plant of Equisetum arvense has been recognised by the German Pharmacopoeia under the name of 'Herba Equiseti', which is helpful in promoting the discharge of urine. The ashes also used to relieve acidity and dyspepsia. This species also contains silica in therapeutically active form.
18. E. debile yield a medicine which relieves gonorrhoea.
19. Different types of ferns enhances the beauty of garden and glass house and some are also used to make bouq bouquets, ~~and~~.
20. In the tropical regions, tree ferns are used for the building of houses.
21. The stalks and leaves of the plants of Marsilea, Dryopteris, Pteris etc. are used as herbage, vegetables, specially during food scarcity.

22. Rhizome of Dryopteris is medicinally used.
23. The starchy paste of the sporocarps of Marsilea drummondii is prepared into cakes, commonly known "nardoo" by the natives of Australia.
24. Pteridophyta take part in the formation of coal.