ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF PTERIDOPHYTES

1. As pteridophytes are green plants, they can synthesized O2, utilizing CO2 from air and water from soil.
2. Pteridophytes are usually terrestrial so they protect the upper surface of soil.
3. They protect the soil from heavy rainfall and stop soil erosion.
4. Many species are edible and are used as food. Eg. *Ampelopteris prolifera, Isoetes* are used as food. *Osmunda cinnamomea* is used as vegetables.
5. Diplezium esculentum is commonly known as ‘Dhekia’ which is a common vegetable for people of Assam.
6. *Azolla* is also used in food production as they have higher carbohydrate and protein.
7. They are very helpful for the formation of biofertilizers.
8. *Azolla* spp. are very helpful for the formation of biofertilizer because their root have Anabaena, which helps in nitrogen fixation.
9. A few species are grown in pots for their beautiful coloured moss like foliage.
10. Many ferns are used as decorative plant in home. Eg. *Pteris, Dryopteris*.
11. Some species are also used in production of alcohol, which also provide some medicinal property to it.