
BIRD'S NEST FERN

Bird's nest ferns are a grouping of epiphytic ferns that are members of the Asplenium or spleenwort family. These plants are unique in their growth habit with their displays of long, strappy green foliage that grows in a vase shape format with a nest-like center. They are native to tropical regions of Hawaii, Polynesia and Southeast Asia. Bird's nest ferns are often found clinging to tropical rainforest trees in their native environment. While they can grow quite large in nature, when cultivated indoors they maintain a relatively compact growth habit of about 1-2'. Bird's nest ferns are relatively easy to care for indoors as well as long as their basic cultural needs are met. Today they are often commercially available as a tropical indoor houseplant.



Latin Name: *Asplenium nidus*
Type: Evergreen tropical houseplant
Exposure: Bright filtered light indoors
Growth Rate: Moderate
Growth Habit: Mounding (epiphytic in nature)
Hardiness: Zone 10-11 not frost hardy
Soil: Well-draining potting mix with peat

Where should I plant my bird's nest fern?

When grown indoors, bird's nest ferns require a rich, well-draining soil mixture with added peat moss. They are not heavy feeders, and benefit from a high-quality potting mix. It is important that their potting mixture retains moisture consistently, but does not become too damp.

How much water will my bird's nest fern need?

These ferns do not like to dry out too much and prefer consistently moist soil. These ferns are much more forgiving than other varieties that require high humidity and frequent misting. However, the only caveat in care for these plants is that they do not enjoy water pooling in the crown of the plant or "nest."

When should I fertilize my bird's nest fern?

These ferns do not require frequent fertilization and should only be fed with a balanced, high-quality blend 2-3 times per year.

Are there any pests or diseases I should be aware of?

These ferns do not typically suffer from many pest or diseases issues other than common houseplant ailments such as aphids, mealy bugs, scale and white flies. However, these ferns are sensitive to chemical pesticides and prefer insecticidal soap or neem oil.