

FERN CARE GUIDE



Heart-leaf Fern
Hemionitis arifolia

Ferns come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, but they all natively dwell in tropical and sub-tropical regions, covering the forest floors with lush vegetation. As a house plant, ferns add visual contrast and appealing textures to otherwise plain indoor landscapes.

WATER

Ferns desire to be continually moist, but not soggy. Use a finger to test your soil about once a week, and when the top inch of soil is dry, water your fern. Allow the water to drain freely through the pot and do not let it sit in standing water. To increase humidity around the plant, try using a humidifier, a water and pebble tray, or simply misting the plant a few times a day.

PLACEMENT AND TEMPERATURE

Fern will appreciate being kept close to a humid environment. Near the kitchen sink, in a bathroom or close to your home's humidifier are good places for ferns to thrive. Room temperature, 70 degrees or slightly below, is what is recommended for ferns. Any hotter and they could be subject to drying out faster and shriveling leaves.

LIGHT

Due to their native habitats being under tropical tree canopies, most ferns prefer bright, but never direct sunlight. North or East sunlight is preferred. Direct sunlight can burn leaves and dry out soil faster, so stick to bright, indirect or filtered light.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize once a month during the summer months, with an all-purpose liquid fertilizer. Refrain from fertilizing during the winter.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Yellowing leaves: A sign of overwatering and/or root rot.

Brown, falling leaves: A sign of inconsistent watering, and a plant that has gotten too dry.

Brown spots with wilting: Your fern may be suffering from scorching, try moving it farther from direct sun rays.

BOTANY