



## Mother Fern *Asplenium bulbiferum*

07-02



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 14, 15-17, 20-24, or indoors	Partial or full shade	Plant in rich soil, once a month high nitrogen fertilizing during the growth season	Regular to ample watering	Produces no flowers	Fronds to 4 feet tall

Ferns grow in rainforests and freezing tundra and broiling deserts. Yet, there are some general rules that work for most ferns we can easily get at a local nursery. Most ferns like a humid shaded environment. Lots of filtered sunlight or early morning and late afternoon direct light will produce a strong and colorful plant. Dry atmosphere and dry heat will make the delicate fronds wither and die. Good drainage must also be provided or the plant may drown. A lath- or shade-cloth-covered area is an ideal place to raise ferns, giving them filtered light and helping to maintain a moist atmosphere. One of the MOST important considerations in plant care is watering. More plants die from overwatering than from any other cause. With ferns watering considerations are even more important.

Most ferns live either growing on rocks or trees or in very shallow soil. As a result, most ferns require a loose rapidly draining mix which requires them to be watered more often. Potted plants need good drainage holes. As a rule, ferns like to be moist, not wet. With most ferns you should be careful not let them dry completely out.

It is also not a good idea to mist most ferns, especially the lacier, more delicate ones. The water tends to gather in the fronds and on the crown and promote rot. To increase humidity for indoor pots, you can place the pot on gravel or marbles in a saucer full of water. Make sure the bottom of the pot is above the water line.