



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: *Selaginella 'Avatar'*
- Common Name: Avatar Spikemoss
- Plant Family: Lycopodiaceae
- Mature Size: 12 in.
- Growth Habit: Bush
- Bloom Color: None
- Bloom Form: None
- Bloom Time: None
- Water Needs: Heavy
- Light Needs: Shade
- Recommended Zones: 7a - 10
- Key Features: Striking variegated leaves
- Suggested Uses: Ground Cover, Mass Planting, Rock/ Alpine Gardens
- Growers Notes : Prone to suckering, remove vertical shoots as needed to contain



Selaginella 'Avatar' or **Avatar Spikemoss** is a whimsical low growing plant that prefers full shade and heavy watering. While this plant does not produce blooms or fruits of any ornamental significance, its striking variegated leaves are very unique and make it an unusual groundcover addition to shade gardens.

This spikemoss was nicknamed 'Avatar' when the 2009 film Avatar was released because of its unique suckering growth pattern. The vertical 'suckers' that shoot down from the plant resemble a miniature version of the Tree of Life in this movie.

Only reaching 12 inches in height at full maturity, Avatar Spikemoss stays low to the ground but can spread extensively left unchecked. Removing 'suckers' from the outside edges of the plant can halt this sprawling growth pattern without damaging the plant.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants is not generally recommended, so for the best results, repot your new plant and allow it to grow for several weeks until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out into the landscape:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full shade
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Prune lightly after flowering to encourage branching and shape.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Care of Your New Shade Garden Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately plant or repot the new plant into a prepared bed or a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate in light to moderate shade. This plant must be protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water. If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over, or adapted to growing indoors year round in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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