



Emerald Goddess Gardens

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- Botanical Name: *Asplenium nidus 'Leslie'*
- Common Name: Leslie Birdsnest Fern
- Plant Family: Aspleniaceae
- Mature Size: 5 ft.
- Growth Habit: Terrestrial or Epiphytic Fern
- Bloom Color: N/A
- Bloom Form: N/A
- Bloom Time: N/A
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Bright Shade
- Recommended Zones: 11, 12
- Key Features: Unique Ruffled Leaf, Shade Loving Plant
- Suggested Uses: Indoor Decor, Tree Mounted Accent, Shade Garden
- Growers Notes : Bird Nest ferns are extremely sensitive to cold weather



Asplenium nidus 'Leslie' or **Leslie Birdsnest Fern** is an exceptionally unique fern that can be grown epiphytically in trees or terrestrially in soil. This fern is native to East African and Asian rain forests and requires rain forest-like conditions to remain the most beautiful. This plant prefers growing medium that is moist, but not soggy and needs indirect light to thrive. As **Leslie Birdsnest Fern** grows to maturity, its ruffled fronds can reach upwards of five feet in length.

Juvenile Leslie Birdsnest Ferns are very compact and grow in a tight rosette form with ruffling near the tips of the fronds; as the fern continues to mature, leaves will become progressively larger and more ruffled with many finger-like protrusions.

When cultivated indoors, Leslie Birdsnest Fern grows most successfully in areas with bright indirect light and does best in areas with high humidity like bathrooms or kitchens. Avoid placing this fern in an area that is known to be drafty as they are extremely tropical and will be stressed by cool temperatures.

Direct planting of 4 inch starters is not recommended. For success with your new **Leslie Birdsnest Fern** follow these helpful tips:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in bright indirect light.
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze.

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

Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information. The absence of information does not mean or imply that a plant is not toxic, only that no information is generally known by us.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.

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 re-pot 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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