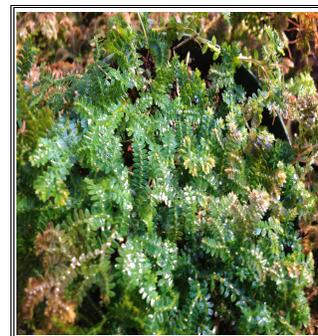


Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Selaginella uncinata
Common Name	Peacock Fern or Rainbow Moss
Mature Size	3 ft x 4 inches
Bloom Color	None
Bloom Period	None
Boom Form	None
Water	Consistent Moisture
Light	Shade
USDA Zone	7, 8, 9, 10
Fragrance	No
Uses	Ground Cover, Potted, House
Special Features	Showy Color, Moderately Cold Hardy



Selaginella uncinata also known as Peacock Fern or Rainbow Moss is a wonderfully interesting plant. Despite its delicate and tropical fern-like appearance, it is actually very tough, easy to grow, moderately cold hardy and not a fern at all.

Selaginellas are not true ferns, but they do share many characteristics with ferns beyond their cosmetic appearance. They prefer to grow in moderate to deep shade, and to be planted in fertile, well-composted soil with a high organic make-up; they grow slowly, and do not bloom, and adapt well to being grown as houseplants, or on the porch or patio.

There are many interesting *Selaginella* cultivars, with *Selaginella uncinata* being one of the most popular and best known. This *Selaginella* is commonly called Peacock Fern or Rainbow Moss because of the shimmering, iridescent, blue-green and bronze-red coloring of the unique lacy, fern-like foliage.

The growth habit is slow, low-growing and spreading, so it is a good choice for most any shaded spot that needs ground cover. It is also lovely as a potted plant or hanging basket, and is a great choice for dish gardens and terrariums.

In addition to the interesting color and unique texture, perhaps the best feature of many of the Spikemoss cultivars is that nearly all have at least a moderate degree of cold hardiness, making it possible to bring in a bit of the exotic, lush look of tropical plants without the work and worry that is typically needed to successfully grow tropicals outside their recommended Zone range.

Peacock Ferns are generally evergreen in Zones 8-10 and can be wintered over outdoors in Zone 7 when well established and acclimated where it goes fully dormant and rests through the winter and resprouts in the Spring.

The color range, intensity, and degree of iridescence will vary with temperature, light, moisture and nutrition levels.

Selaginellas can be successfully transplanted directly into the landscape from the 4-inch pot size, with a few cautions. In Zones 7, and 8 either wait until Spring to order the Peacock Fern, or transplant into 6-inch pots and wait until the danger of frost and freeze has passed before setting out.

Selaginellas can also be grown as potted plants indefinitely.

- Plant in fertile well-draining, slightly acidic soil with a high organic make-up;
- Locate in medium shade or indoors.
- Maintaining consistent soil moisture is essential. This plant must not be allowed to dry out.
- Feed a good quality, slow-release fertilizer with the initial planting and once yearly in the Spring after the plant breaks dormancy thereafter.
- Supplement with a water-soluble plant food in between regular annual feeding.
- Protect from freezing until well established.

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