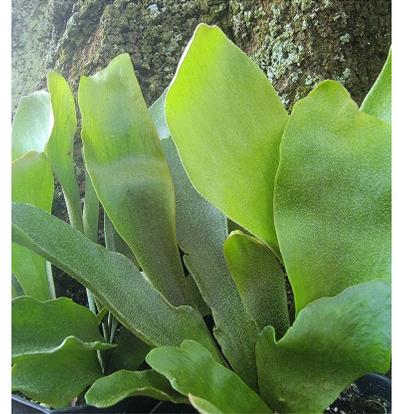




Emerald Goddess Gardens

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- Botanical Name: *Platycerium bifurcatum*
- Common Name: Common Staghorn Fern, Elkhorn Fern
- Plant Family: Polypodiaceae
- Mature Size: 4 ft.
- Growth Habit: Bracket Epiphyte
- Bloom Color: N/A
- Bloom Form: N/A
- Bloom Time: N/A
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Bright Shade
- Recommended Zones: 9, 10, 11
- Key Features: Unique leaf shape, Low maintenance, Epiphyte
- Suggested Uses: Hanging Basket, Indoor Decor, Tree Accent
- Growers Notes : Staghorn ferns should not be exposed to temperatures below 50 degrees for extended periods.



Platycerium bifurcatum or Common Staghorn Fern has grown to be a Southern garden classic. These elegant ferns can be seen swaying from trees in the South as they likely have been for decades. The huge baskets of Staghorn fern seen most commonly are usually many years old as these ferns are quite slow growing. Elkhorn fern is a type of plant known as an epiphyte; this means that they grow readily on trees in a stunning display of commensalism. As leaf debris and old bark decay on a tree, they are washed down the tree's trunk by rain where the Staghorn fern is readily waiting for nutrients and water.

Staghorn ferns have two distinct types of foliage. The basal fronds that anchor the fern to the surface it grows upon are round and build upon themselves to create a bulbous appearance near the bottom of the plant. The characteristic 'staghorn' shaped leaves drape from the center of the plant and are often accented by a soft brown area on the underside. This fuzzy brown region is the fertile region of the plant known as the sporangium where it will produce spores that grow as independent plants once germinated.

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

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in dappled shade
- 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.