

**Bird's Nest Fern***Asplenium nidus*

Not your typical fern, Bird's Nest Fern has fronds that are not divided. Their shiny green fronds grow in a rosette shape forming a "nest" in the center. They are tree-dwelling ferns that are well suited to life indoors in containers.

**Basics:** This plant is quite easy to grow. Bird's Nest Fern prefers soil that is kept partially dry and can even handle dry soil for short periods of time. It can live in drier air than most ferns. It enjoys warm to average temperatures, and prefers bright indirect light. Do not place it where the sun will shine directly on it. Always protect Bird's Nest Fern from drafts.

**Special Care:** Grow Bird's Nest Fern in a shallow pot like an azalea pot. When the plant is actively growing, fertilizer may be applied at ¼ the recommended strength every 4-6 weeks. Use an all purpose house plant fertilizer.

**Potential Pest Problems:** Scale insects and spider mites. Fern plants are sensitive to many sprays so test on a single leaf before applying any spray to the entire plant.

**Propagation:** Bird's Nest Fern can be propagated by plantlets or by division.

**Reference:**

Helmer, Jane Coleman. *Pictorial Guide to House Plants*. Ed. Karla S. Decker Hodge. Kalamazoo, Michigan: Merchants Company, 1993. 37.

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