

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Bright indirect light.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Winter hardy in zones 9 to 11. We recommend planting in a container so you can move the plant indoors before the first frost.
PLANT TYPE	Annual/Tropical.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 12 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	24 to 48 inches tall with a similar spread.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	12 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	Unique foliage. Makes an excellent houseplant. Great for decorative containers.

Thank you for your order!

PLANT WARRANTY
 We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reshipe the following shipping season.
 If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or help@cottagefarmsdirect.com.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
 1-800-222-1222**

ALLIGATOR FERN



*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

OUT OF THE BOX

ALLIGATOR FERN

Your plant has been shipped to you in a pot. We urge you to remove it from the shipping box and plant as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag down around the plant and place it near a bright window or other sunny location. Keep it well-watered in its pot until permanently planted. Once planted, it will begin setting roots and, as the weather warms, begin showing new growth. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care and be patient.

The foliage on potted plants may appear slightly wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is usually nothing to worry about. Water the plant thoroughly, place it in a shady location for a few days and remove any foliage that does not recover.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.nifa.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

We strongly recommend planting in a container in order to properly protect your plant from winter damage. Use the following instructions as a guide for container planting.

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

A Fill the container with soil to within 4 inches of the top. Remove the pot and prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. Dig a hole in the soil to insert the lower part of the root ball.

B Once the plant is properly positioned in the pot, begin filling the pot with soil. Work the soil around the root ball with your hands, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. When the hole is filled, tamp the soil to remove any air pockets.

C Water well and, if necessary, adjust the plant so it is upright and add additional soil if needed. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.



CONTINUING CARE

FEEDING Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can prepare for winter. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Once established, this plant requires little watering.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Water thoroughly until the soil is well-saturated and excess water drains out of the drainage holes at the bottom of the container. Never allow the plants to sit in a saucer of water. Pots may be kept in saucers after any excess water has drained from the pot.

PRUNING

Alligator Ferns rarely need pruning. However, any dead, damaged or unsightly growth can be removed as needed to maintain an attractive appearance.

Alligator Ferns should be grown in containers and enjoyed as houseplants or moved indoors before the first frost. When you bring your plant indoors for the winter, select a room with a sunny window.

WINTERIZING

Water sparingly over the winter. Remove any unsightly or dead growth as needed to maintain an attractive appearance. Do not be alarmed if your plant sheds some of its foliage.

In spring when temperatures begin to rise, move the plant back outdoors if desired.