

Bird's-Nest Fern

(Asplenium nidus)

Bird's-nest fern forms a rosette of brilliant fronds somewhat similar to banana plant leaves. The plant may grow as large as six feet across in time.

Light

Expose to medium (bright indirect) light, preferably with an eastern exposure. Tolerates low light.

Water

Allow soil surface to dry out between thorough waterings. Keep humidity high by double-potting. Mist older plants daily.

Temperature

Maintain temperatures below 75 degrees during the day and above 50 degrees at night. Plant likes cool temperatures.

Comments

Use a porous growing medium with lots of peat, vermiculite, or coarse sand. Grow in clay pots, if possible; they breathe, keeping roots cool. Feed every 14 days with extremely mild solution during active growth. Clean foliage with frequent, but gentle, baths. Pot up when severely root-bound (roots grow slowly). Avoid insecticides. Propagate by division in March or by spores when plants are mature.