Lindley's
Nursery and
Garden Center

Foxtail Fern

Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers'



Foxtail Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Meyeri Asparagus Fern

Description:

Feathery and soft, this variety of asparagus creates great visual interest when massed; flowers are short lived and are hidden behind foliage therefore not very noticeable; this variety is a robust grower great for containers

Ornamental Features

Foxtail Fern is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent red berries from mid to late summer. Its attractive tiny needle-like leaves remain light green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Foxtail Fern is a dense herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Invasive

Foxtail Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Foxtail Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Foxtail Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Foxtail Fern will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant performs well in both full sun and full shade. It does best in average conditions that are neither too wet nor too dry, and is very intolerant of standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Foxtail Fern is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.