



GENERAL CARE

Ferns

Ferns provide a tranquil, cool environment in the garden, creating a space to sit and unwind from the day's hassles. Planted in the right position, ferns can grow well in Adelaide's climate and are great for that awkward, shady spot in the garden.

Ferns need rich, well composted soil in an area with protection from the sun, wind and frost. Planting under a tree or in a shade house is ideal. Ferns like to be close together, creating their own micro-climate.

A good watering system is essential to give them the growing conditions they need to thrive. It is also helpful to have an overhead misting system, which keeps the humidity high and helps to prevent the fronds from browning during the hot weather. Adding a pond to the fernery not only adds interest but also brings more humidity into the environment.

Mulching is very important to keep the soil moist and the temperature around the roots regulated. Fertilise regularly in the warmer months using a fertiliser designed for ferns or use other fertilisers at half the recommended dose.

Hanging Baskets

Ferns in hanging baskets add a tropical feel to your outdoor areas. There are many suitable hanging baskets available in garden centres, from decorative metal to plastic and self-watering. Wire baskets look great, but keep in mind they can dry out faster, so ferns may need to be watered once a day during the hot weather. Plastic baskets protect the soil from drying out as quickly and self-watering baskets keep the soil moist for longer still.

A dripper system set up in your hanging baskets will alleviate the headache of trying to keep the plants well-watered while you are away from home.

The soil in some wire hanging baskets can become non-wetting after a while. To rewet the potting mix, submerge most of the basket and let it soak for a minute in a large container of water. They will be quite heavy once wet, so leave them to drain before hanging them back up.

On windy days you may need to put the baskets on the ground in a protected spot.

Indoor Ferns

Given the right conditions, ferns can do well inside. Bathrooms, laundries and kitchens are great spots because of the higher humidity in these areas. It is beneficial during the warmer months to use a spray bottle to mist the foliage with water. Ferns, like most plants, do not like our heating or cooling systems, so steer clear of spaces that are directly affected. If possible, it is beneficial for your plants to spend some time outside every now and then in a shady, protected environment.

Shade Houses

A well set up shade house can be a wonderful addition to the garden. With good watering and misting you can create a lush tranquil space to enjoy. Use a green shade cloth with 70-80% density for best protection from the harsh summer sun.