Philippine Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum philippense



Philippine Maidenhair Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Walking Maiden Hair Fern, Wild Tea Leaves

Description:

This tropical variety produces bright green fronds on contrasting black stems, fine leaves are slightly lobed on stems that are horizontal and layered; a lovely addition to the shade garden or containers

Ornamental Features

Philippine Maidenhair Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its ferny compound leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning light green in color throughout the season. The black stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Philippine Maidenhair Fern is an herbaceous annual with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. 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 usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Philippine Maidenhair Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Philippine Maidenhair Fern will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this slow-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some 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. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division.