Variegated Cretan Brake Fern

Pteris cretica var. albolineata



Variegated Cretan Brake Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 inches

Spread: 20 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Silver Ribbon Fern, Bird's Foot Fern, Albolineata

Description:

Interesting, arching mound of bi-colored green, lanceolate fronds with creamy white centers; a great garden groundcover or container plant

Ornamental Features

Variegated Cretan Brake Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its serrated narrow compound leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning dark green in color with pointy white spines the rest of the year.



Variegated Cretan Brake Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Cretan Brake Fern is an herbaceous evergreen fern with a shapely form and gracefully arching fronds. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. 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.

Variegated Cretan Brake Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Variegated Cretan Brake Fern will grow to be about 20 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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 average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Variegated Cretan Brake Fern is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.