Squirrel's Foot Fern

Davallia trichomanoides



Squirrel's Foot Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Black Rabbit's Foot Fern

Description:

Elegant, lacy fronds create a lush mound of foliage; develops interesting fuzzy rhizomes that hang over the sides of containers, and must be misted to avoid drying out; a great house or patio plant

Ornamental Features

Squirrel's Foot Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. Its attractive glossy ferny pinnately compound leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Squirrel's Foot Fern is an herbaceous evergreen fern with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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;

- Spreading

Squirrel's Foot Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Squirrel's Foot Fern will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate 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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Squirrel's Foot Fern is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.