Sickle Fern

Pellaea falcata

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9



Sickle Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Sickle Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

An ornamental fern with rich glossy green fronds to grace a shaded area of the garden or container; a very nice arching habit and deep color make it a great houseplant as well

Ornamental Features

Sickle Fern's glossy ferny pinnately compound leaves remain green in color throughout the year on a plant with an arching habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Sickle 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sickle Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Sickle Fern will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 4 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 requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Sickle Fern is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing the canvas against which the 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.