

Botanical name:
Genus: Asparagus
Species: setaceus

Common Name(s): English Fern,
Lace Fern
Latin Family Name:
Asparagaceae
English Family Name:
Asparagus

The common names are derived from their appearance, the plumes of feathery foliage resemble delicate, lacy ferns

The plant

Origin; country or region: Native to South Africa

Growth habit: A wiry shrub with branches that scramble or climb if support is provided (a climbing plant)

Flower description: Small white, insignificant flowers

Blooming period/availability: Perennial

Leaf/Foliage Description: Light green, needle like foliage. Tough green stems and leaves, which may reach several metres in length. They produce soft, fine lime-green needle-like leaves that can cascade down a container or can be trained up a trellis like a vine

Usage : Asparagus plants are fairly easy to grow, noted for its dense, fern-like, evergreen to semi-deciduous foliage

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

Often used as 'a thriller in mixed plantings

Can be grown indoors as well as outdoors

They can be grown both in the soil as well as pots or in hanging baskets

The attractive foliage is also used in floral arrangements (They are grown for the graceful feathery-like, fern-like foliage, sprays are utilized in floral arrangements)

WEAKNESS:

If planted in pots they have to be changed every few years as the pots get full of swollen roots

Can look untidy

Prone to insects

Invasive and a weedy species

This plant is not keen on being touched very much, it's a really good plant for a shelf, where it won't be bothered. Its beauty is best enjoyed from a comfortable distance

Care & Handling

Longevity: Long lived

Water requirements: Keeping an Asparagus fern hydrated takes a little effort, as this plant thrives on humidity. Mist the plant daily, focusing on the arching stems. If the plant appears to be turning brown and droopy, it likely needs more water

Light: The Asparagus fern thrives in dappled shade, although it can be acclimated to more light. Keep it out of direct, bright sunlight

Soil/Nutrition requirements: Plant Asparagus ferns in pots or containers in moist, loose, well-drained potting soil
Outdoors, plant it in rich, well-drained soil that is slightly acidic

Special care/remarks: They produce large, tuberous roots that can become pot bound quickly. If pruning is necessary, cut stems all the way back to the root rather than just shortening them

