

Botanical name:
Genus: Platycerium
Species: bifurcatum

Common Name(s): Staghorn/
Elkhorn fern

Latin Family Name:
Polypodiaceae

English Family Name: Fern

Staghorn ferns look very much like deer or elk antlers, hence their unusual name

The plant

Origin; country or region: Native to Asia and Australia

Growth habit: This genus is epiphytic, they grow slowly, but end up being quite large and impressive once mature

Flower description: NA

Blooming period/availability: NA

Leaf/Foliage Description: Uniquely shaped fronds

Thick leathery leaves

They have two distinct leaf forms—small, flat leaves (known as shield fronds) that cover the root ball structure and take up water and nutrients; and green, pronged antler fronds that emerge from this base

Usage: A fascinating fern with antler like resemblance

Staghorn ferns were once considered difficult to grow, but today they are quite popular

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

Make for tons of eye-catching visual interest, not only because of the beauty of the ferns themselves but also due to the unusual way they're typically grown. Staghorn ferns can be mounted on wood planks and hung on the way, they make for a great way to add a bit of green decor to your room or gallery wall scene

WEAKNESS: Sensitive to its environment



Staghorn Ferns are not parasitic, because although they fix themselves onto trees, they do not take any nutrients from the trees or harm them in any way

Care & Handling

Longevity: 3-5 years

Water requirements: They'll need frequent watering, but the base should be allowed to dry out in between—about once a week in warmer climates

Light: Staghorn ferns prefer to be kept in a location that boasts consistent, shaded light

Soil/Nutrition requirements:

Use an orchid compost

Special care/remarks: Staghorn ferns are epiphytes, growing on the sides of trees or other plants in the wild, and will therefore thrive in similar conditions in your home

Large, mature staghorn can be easily divided into smaller plants, and even small "chunks" that include a leaf and a bit of root ball can be potted individually

