Korean Rock Fern

Polystichum tsus-simense

Height: 20 inches

Spread: 16 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Tsu-Sima Holly Fern

Description:

This easy to grow smaller size fern is great for any shaded area of the garden; also an excellent choice for container or indoor growing; dark stems contrast beautifully with the foliage adding tremendous interest; very resistant to pests and disease



Korean Rock Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Korean Rock Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive ferny pinnately compound leaves remain forest green in color with distinctive black veins throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Korean Rock Fern is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. 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. 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.

Korean Rock Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens



Korean Rock Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Korean Rock Fern will grow to be about 20 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 16 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. 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 15 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division.