For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

BUTTON FERN CARE

LIGHT

Button fern (Pellaea rotundifolia) has small, rounded leaflets on arching dark stems. Place it in bright, filtered light near a window. Protect from hot midday sun. Turn the pot occasionally so its low, spreading fronds develop evenly.

WATERING

Keep the root ball lightly moist, allowing only the surface to become slightly dry before watering. Soak the mix evenly, let excess water drain and empty the saucer. Never leave the pot standing in water or let the entire root ball dry hard.

SOIL

Use an airy, mildly acidic potting mix that holds some moisture while draining freely. A container with drainage holes is essential. Repot in spring when roots fill the pot, using a container only slightly larger. Avoid burying the crown.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Keep indoors in steady, comfortable room temperatures, away from heaters, air conditioners and cold drafts. Protect from frost. Moderate humidity and gentle air movement help keep fronds in good condition. A humidifier can help when indoor air becomes especially dry.

FERTILIZING

Feed lightly with a balanced houseplant fertilizer during active spring and summer growth, following label directions for dilution. Reduce or stop feeding when growth slows. Apply to moist soil; excess fertilizer can damage tender roots and brown the leaf tips.

PESTS

Inspect regularly for scale, mealybugs and mites, and isolate affected plants. Remove fully brown fronds at their base with clean scissors. Brown tips may reflect dry roots, dry air or excess fertilizer. Check growing conditions before increasing water; soggy soil can cause rot.