



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

CROCODILE FERN CARE

LIGHT

Crocodile fern (*Microsorium musifolium* Crocodyllus) prefers bright, filtered light. Protect its broad, net-veined fronds from direct sun, especially through hot glass. An east- or north-facing window is often suitable. Allow room for the arching leaves to expand without rubbing against furniture or busy walkways.

WATERING

Keep the potting mix moist but airy, watering as the surface starts to dry. Do not let the root ball dry completely or remain waterlogged. Water thoroughly, allow it to drain, and empty the saucer. Check less frequently in cool, low-light winter conditions, adjusting to actual soil moisture.

SOIL

This fern naturally grows as an epiphyte and needs a porous growing medium. Use a moisture-retentive mix with fine orchid bark and perlite for air and drainage. Choose a container with drainage holes. Repot when crowded, preserving the roots and keeping the growing base at its original depth.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Provide steady household warmth, high humidity and gentle air circulation. Keep away from cold drafts and drying heaters; protect from temperatures below 50°F and all frost. A bright bathroom or nearby humidifier can help prevent crisp edges. Avoid crowding fronds tightly against other surfaces.

FERTILIZING

Feed lightly while new fronds are developing, using a diluted houseplant fertilizer suitable for ferns. Follow the labeled fern rate and reduce or stop feeding during slow winter growth. Apply to moist mix. Strong fertilizer can damage sensitive roots, so avoid trying to force growth with extra feeding.

PESTS & MAINTENANCE

Check for scale, mites and mealybugs, isolating affected plants before treatment. Use only products labeled as suitable for ferns and test a small area first. Remove fully dead fronds with clean tools. Round brown spore cases on the underside of mature fronds can be normal, rather than an infestation.