For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

STAGHORN FERN CARE

LIGHT

Staghorn fern (Platycerium bifurcatum) needs strong, indirect light. Protect the antler-shaped fronds from harsh direct sun that can bleach or scorch them. Provide room for the plant to spread and place mounted specimens where their support is secure and watering can be done safely.

WATERING

Water as the moss or mix begins to dry, before the roots become completely parched. For mounted plants, soak the root-and-shield portion in room-temperature water until saturated, then drain before rehanging. For potted plants, water through and empty the saucer. Avoid keeping either form continually soggy; reduce frequency in winter.

SOIL & MOUNTING

Use an exceptionally airy, free-draining medium. Small plants may grow in pots with drainage holes; mounted plants usually root into sphagnum moss on a board or bark slab. Maintain firm support without crushing green fronds. Do not bury the plant beneath heavy potting soil.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Normal household temperatures, preferably above 55°F, humid air and good circulation are ideal. Protect from cold drafts, heaters and frost. A bright bathroom or nearby humidifier can help. Check moisture more often in warm rooms or on mounts, which usually dry faster than pots.

FERTILIZING

Feed lightly during active growth with a diluted, balanced houseplant fertilizer, following the labeled fern rate. Mounted roots can be soaked in the dilute solution, then drained. Reduce or stop feeding when growth slows. Strong fertilizer and continually wet moss can damage the roots.

FRONDS & PESTS

Leave the brown shield fronds in place; they protect and anchor the plant. Do not wipe away the soft, silvery coating on green fronds. Brown spore patches beneath mature antler tips are normal. Inspect for scale and mealybugs, isolating affected plants before using a fern-safe labeled treatment.