For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

LADY FERN

LIGHT

Choose partial to full shade with shelter from drying wind. Gentle morning sun is suitable if soil stays moist. Exposed afternoon sun can scorch the fine fronds.

WATER

Keep soil evenly moist, particularly while roots establish and during summer drought. Check beneath mulch before watering. Do not let a newly planted crown dry completely, but avoid a stagnant, waterlogged site.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant Athyrium filix-femina in humus-rich, well-drained soil, with the crown at soil level. Leaf mold or finished compost helps improve moisture retention. Space according to the cultivar tag.

FEEDING

An annual light layer of leaf mold or compost is usually sufficient. Use additional fertilizer sparingly and only when needed. Keep concentrated fertilizer and heavy mulch away from the central crown.

SEASONAL CARE

The fronds die back naturally in autumn. Remove dead growth before spring fronds unfurl, taking care around emerging shoots. Divide an overcrowded clump in spring if needed, keeping divisions moist while they settle.

HELPFUL TIPS

Brown frond tips often follow dry soil, hot sun or wind; inspect the site before adding fertilizer. Lady in Red shares this basic care. This guide is for lady fern, not Japanese painted ferns or unidentified Athyrium hybrids.