



BIRDS NEST FERN CARE

LIGHT

Bird's-nest ferns (*Asplenium nidus* and *A. antiquum*), including Crispy Wave, Crissie and Hurricane types, prefer bright, indirect light. Protect from hot direct sun, which can yellow or scorch the broad fronds. Handle new growth gently; the emerging leaves are easily damaged.

WATERING

Water the potting mix around the outside of the plant when the surface begins to dry. Keep the root ball lightly moist, never waterlogged or dry throughout. Avoid pouring water into the central nest. Let excess drain and empty the saucer after watering.

SOIL

Use a loose, porous fern mix that holds some moisture while allowing air around the roots. A container with drainage holes is essential. Repot only when crowded or the mix breaks down, keeping the crown above the mix and moving up just one pot size.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Steady temperatures around 60-75°F and moderate to high humidity support healthy fronds. Keep away from heaters, cold glass and drafts. A bright bathroom or a room humidifier can help in winter. More soil water will not compensate for very dry air.

FERTILIZING

Feed lightly about monthly during active growth with a diluted houseplant fertilizer, following label directions for ferns. Apply to the mix rather than the central crown. Reduce or stop feeding when growth slows, and avoid strong fertilizer applications that can damage roots.

PESTS

Check for scale and mealybugs; choose treatments labeled for sensitive fern foliage. Remove fully dead outer fronds with clean scissors. Regular brown lines on mature frond undersides may be normal spore structures. Soft central growth or persistently wet soil warrants checking for rot.