Herrenhausen Shield Fern

Polystichum setiferum 'Herrenhausen'



Herrenhausen Shield Fern foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Spacing: 26 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Description:

A very soft textured fern variety; excellent massed or as groundcover in shaded woodland borders or featured in shady areas of rock gardens; evergreen in mild winter areas

Ornamental Features

Herrenhausen Shield Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive ferny pinnately compound leaves remain forest green in color throughout the year.



Herrenhausen Shield Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Herrenhausen Shield Fern is an herbaceous evergreen fern with a shapely form and gracefully arching fronds. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Herrenhausen Shield Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Herrenhausen Shield Fern will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 26 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.