

Staghorn Ferns, *Platycerium* species are very interesting plants. They are actually Epiphytic Ferns, meaning, they anchor themselves to trees but do not take water or nutrients from them. Most species gather water from rainfall and nutrients from the dust and debris swirling around their environment.

Staghorn Ferns have 2 different types of fronds or leaves. The fertile longer fronds tend to grow out from the crown of the plant. You may see brown fuzz on the underside of these fronds. That is the spores or seeds of the fern. It is difficult to grow new plants from these spores. It is best to divide plants when offsets or pups appear beside the larger, mature plants. Most Staghorn Ferns are grown by tissue culture. The 2nd frond is called a Shield Frond. It is round, light green and sterile, not producing any spores. This frond may turn tan & papery while they age.

Staghorn Fern Care

- **Most species need Bright Indirect Light**
- **Soak root ball/moss ball to keep moist but not sopping wet.**
- **Water more often in warmer weather**
- **Fertilize from April to August using a Water Soluble Fertilizer**

***Platycerium coronarium* (Staghorn Fern)**

Native to Malaysia
Each frond grows one at a time at irregular intervals
Pendulous leaf fronds

Platycerium madagascariense

Native to Madagascar
Compact and slow growing
Sterile Fronds become very wrinkled as they mature

***Platycerium bifurcatum* 'Netherlands' (Elkhorn Fern)**

Hybrid form of native species, found in Australia, New Caledonia & New Guinea
Arching grayish-green fronds

***Platycerium hillii* (Stiff Staghorn)**

Native to Northern Australia & New Guinea
Large Bright Green Fronds, Smaller Rounded Shield Fronds

***Platycerium veitchii* (Silver Elkhorn)**

Native to Queensland Australia
Long fronds have a fuzzy, silvery-white covering
Found growing on sunny, rocky areas of Queensland
If you want to grow in sunny site, gradually expose the plant to more sun.
Keep evenly moist but not sopping wet.