



## Table Fern

*Pteris* species

Table ferns are a group of small, unique ferns that are well-suited for life indoors. Their small size makes them perfect for dish gardens or small terrariums.

**Basics:** Table ferns like bright, indirect light from a north or east window. Warm to average home temperatures are best, since they are tropical plants. Table ferns need partially dry soil, but do not let soil get totally dry since they will wilt easily. These ferns do not need as high humidity as other ferns.

**Special Care:** Use an all purpose house plant fertilizer at  $\frac{1}{4}$  the recommended strength every 4-6 weeks while growth is active; higher concentrations will damage the Table Fern's delicate roots. To groom, cut off discolored fronds and spray with water to clean dust off foliage.

**Potential Pest Problems:** Table ferns may become infested with whitefly, scale insects, and mealybugs. If you set the plants outside during the summer, be sure to check for snails or slugs before bringing the plants back indoors.

**Propagation:** Table Fern is propagated by division.

### Reference:

Helmer, Jane Coleman. *Pictorial Guide to House Plants*. Ed. Karla S. Decker Hodge. Kalamazoo, Michigan: Merchants Company, 1993. 105.

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