

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Leslie bird's-nest fern: small green fans with frilled tips

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AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Cachepot, furnishings and decoration not included.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Asplenium antiquum 'Leslie'

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Botanical name	Asplenium antiquum 'Leslie'
Delivery size	12 cm pot · approximately 20–30 cm overall height
Family	Aspleniaceae
Foliage	Glossy green fronds with frilled fan-shaped tips
Growth	Evergreen perennial rosette
Later size	Approximately 60 cm under suitable conditions; separate from delivery height
Flowers	No flowers; spores rather than seeds
Position	Bright with indirect daylight, warm and sheltered

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Shelf position	Choose an open bright compartment with clearance around frond tips.	Foliage needs daylight and space, not just an attractive surface.
Moisture	Keep the root ball slightly moist and check its condition regularly.	A completely dry pot stresses the fern.
Watering	Water the soil slowly at the rosette's edge.	Closely packed young tips remain protected.
Drainage	Remove excess water from the cachepot.	Higher air humidity does not require wet roots.
Room climate	Move away from radiators and cold airflow.	Frilled leaf ends have many sensitive edges.
Soil	Use a humus-rich porous mix with free drainage.	An airy root ball is easier to monitor.
Nutrients	Feed moderately according to the label during growth.	Consider fresh compost and small pot size when deciding quantity.
Care	Remove dead fronds and do not pull open young fans.	New leaves develop their shape themselves.

Knowledge that grows

Frilled fans rather than fine feathered leaves

In Leslie, each frond begins as a broader green surface and ends in a frilled fan-shaped tip. The foliage forms a small dense rosette that looks almost round from above. Original images show the difference between the leaf centre and the more divided end very well. A bright open bookshelf gives this structure a calm background. Leave space beside and above it so the tips do not rub against book edges or boards. A single small fern is enough as a subject. Its many green folds need no extra decoration to look interesting.

A young plant with room to develop

Leslie is offered in a 12 cm pot at about 20 to 30 cm overall height including the pot. RHS lists *Asplenium antiquum* 'Leslie' as a compact form with a possible later height around 60 cm. This describes a developed plant under suitable conditions, not delivery height. The fern remains perennial and evergreen while its cultivation suits it. Flower colours and flowering months do not belong in this portrait: ferns form spores. Attractive frilled tips are frond tissue, not a flower head. In a young rosette, healthy new foliage comes first.

Light reaching the open shelf compartment

A shelf suits the plant if indirect daylight actually reaches the leaf surfaces. On a rear shelf far from a window, conditions may be worse than the bright room initially suggests. Hot direct sun, however, stresses fronds. Choose a sheltered warm position a little away from heating. Leslie likes a less dry environment, but not a narrow permanently wet compartment. Avoid cold currents when airing the room. Turning it slightly to look at it differs from repeatedly moving it between entirely different light and temperature conditions.

Reach the soil beneath the frilled foliage

The dense rosette may conceal the soil. Check gently at a clear spot and notice the weight of the pot. The top layer may begin drying slightly; the whole root ball should not repeatedly dry out. Water slowly onto soil at the edge until roots are supplied, and let excess drain. Check a narrow-rimmed cachepot afterwards. The centre of the rosette is not a funnel for a permanent water reserve. If leaves appear limp despite wet soil, first examine the root situation and drainage.

Repot without gripping the fans

Loose humus-rich fern compost stores moisture and lets water drain. When roots clearly fill their space during active growth, carefully provide a little more room. Support the root ball from below and do not grip the dense leaf tuft. Retain the original planting depth. An oversized new pot contains much unrooted soil that may stay moist for a long time. Use fertiliser sparingly according to the label when new fronds develop. Consider fresh pre-fertilised compost. A strong nutrient dose does not make frilled tips more reliable or beautiful; good roots and suitable light support development.

Each new leaf needs time

Rolled young fronds appear in the centre and open gradually. Do not pull their future fans apart with your fingers. Sensitive tissue may tear. Clean older dusty surfaces carefully without rubbing hard at folded edges. Remove completely dead fronds with clean tools and retain healthy green growth. Regular spore-bearing structures on a mature underside differ from irregular detachable deposits. For propagation, a single young rosette is not simply torn apart. Watching its leaf development is already an enjoyable part of fern care.

Winter care in the actual position

Leslie continues to be kept warm and frost-free indoors in winter. Soil may dry more slowly with little new growth; a shelf above warm heating may simultaneously have very dry air. Brown frilled edges therefore call for looking at the root ball and air, not merely a larger watering vessel. Also check undersides and leaf bases for changes. Treat a problem only after identifying it, and do not test strong sprays indiscriminately on sensitive fern foliage. A securely placed pot prevents the rosette tipping when a book is removed. Its position can be attractive and practical at the same time.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



AI-created detail based on the original shop image. Enlarged view; not a representation of delivery size.



Original shop image of the offered plant. 12 cm pot · approximately 20–30 cm overall height.



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Good to know

Are the frilled tips normal?

Yes. Fan-shaped ruffled frond ends characterise Leslie. Brown dead edges, however, are not part of the desired leaf appearance.

Does it stay 25 cm tall?

That is its approximate young delivery size. Under suitable conditions, Leslie may later develop considerably further.

Can it go on a bookshelf?

A bright open compartment with indirect daylight and enough clearance is suitable. A dark narrow compartment is not.

Why not water into the centre?

Young growth sits there. Water is directed onto soil and excess drained away.

Can I simply divide it?

Do not tear apart a single young rosette. A suitable propagation method depends on its stage of development.

What helps brown tips?

First check root-ball moisture, heating air and fertilising. Already brown tissue does not turn green again; continuing healthy development matters.

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