

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Fabian aralia: round leaf parasols above a sturdy trunk

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AI-created indoor scene based on the clean original shop photograph with young delivery form. 12 cm pot · approx. 25–30 cm total height according to the offer; the image is not a scale-accurate guarantee. Cachepot and furnishings are not included in the delivery.

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

Polyscias 'Fabian' (in the shop: Polyscias scutellaria Fabian)

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Botanical name	Polyscias 'Fabian' (in the shop: Polyscias scutellaria Fabian)
Delivery size	12 cm pot · approx. 25–30 cm total height
Family	Araliaceae
Plant type	Perennial evergreen woody shrub
Leaf shape	Rounded simple leaves with slightly scalloped edges
Leaf colour	Dark green and glossy; undersides sometimes darker-toned
Habit	Short sturdy trunk with a small upright crown
Later development	Crown and branches continue growing; delivery height is not final height
Culture	Warm sheltered indoor position year-round
Handling	Do not eat; wear gloves for pruning

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
Light	Position brightly with indirect daylight.	The dark crown needs light; prolonged hot sunshine behind glass is unfavourable.
Temperature	Keep evenly warm, with about 18–25 °C as an indoor guide.	Cold draughts and sudden changes can stress the tropical aralia.
Watering	Let upper soil dry slightly and then moisten evenly.	The sturdy trunk is no substitute for healthy roots and no reason for prolonged dry spells.
Drainage	Remove surplus from the cachepot.	Constant wetness threatens roots even if the crown still looks good initially.
Air	Avoid direct radiator heat and monitor room air.	Very dry air can encourage leaf drop and spider mites.
Feeding	Feed moderately during active growth according to the fertiliser label.	Leaf loss is not repaired by extra concentrated nutrients.
Repotting	When densely rooted move only slightly larger during growth.	A manageable root space is easier to keep evenly moist.
Crown	Shorten long branch tips selectively during growth when needed.	Cutting above a leaf attachment may encourage branching without removing the whole crown.

Knowledge that grows

Round leaves turn the trunk into a little tree

Fabian carries leaves like little parasols above a sturdy trunk. Dark green surfaces are rounded, glossy and slightly scalloped at the edges. Thinner leaf stalks and young branches show between them. This calm structure gives the plant its own character: a distinct woody framework below and a flexible green crown above. A bright console table lets the trunk show without squeezing the leaves between other plants. The German name Fiederaralie can be confusing. Visible Fabian leaves are not the finely divided leaflets of a Ming aralia but broad simple surfaces. This form should be retained through further care too.

Fabian is the named selection, not a specific trunk shape

The offer says *Polyscias scutellaria* Fabian. The RHS cultivar profile lists the name at genus level as *Polyscias* 'Fabian'; that documented cultivar designation is central here. The familiar trade species assignment remains visible alongside it. *Polyscias* belongs to the aralia family, whose members grow as woody shrubs or small trees. A gnarled trunk shape alone cannot reveal an exact plant age. Nor is every later branch predetermined. The original shows a little branched trunk with a green crown. Other specimens may vary in trunk outline and leaf coverage. When choosing a position the living crown matters at least as much as the decorative wood.

Observe first after unpacking

The delivery information is a 12 cm pot and approximately 25 to 30 cm total height. These measurements describe the small starting stage, not a permanent final tree height. Unpack the crown carefully and set the plant so trunk and all branch tips remain free. Check soil before watering. A plant still wet after transport needs no precautionary second watering. Repotting, pruning and strong feeding need not all happen on the first day either. A reliable bright position makes acclimatisation easier. The AI scene illustrates a suitable room setting; cachepot, table and furnishings are not included in the ordered plant pot.

Brightness and warmth should work together

Fabian likes bright indirect light in a warm room. A dark corner does not become suitable just because the trunk looks particularly decorative there. At a window a thin curtain can soften strong summer sunshine. An indoor area around 18 to 25 °C is a guide; steadiness without cold draughts or direct radiator heat matters more. Move the plant out of the airflow when ventilating. In a bright bathroom more humid air can be pleasant if sufficient daylight is available. Constant changes of position make observation harder. Instead assess new leaves and rootball moisture over time in one sensibly chosen position.

Read needs in the soil, not the trunk

Before watering check upper soil and pot weight. The rootball may dry slightly at the top and is evenly moistened when needed. Then let surplus drain completely. A rigid weekly rule does not suit changing light, varying temperatures or different substrates. The thick trunk may tempt you to treat the plant like a highly drought-loving succulent. Yet healthy crown growth needs roots working reliably. Prolonged drought and constantly wet soil are both unfavourable. With dropping leaves first examine soil, warmth and light. Extra watering does not help an already wet damaged rootball.

Develop crown and root space slowly together

Loose humus-rich potting soil with good drainage gives usable root space. Provide slightly more room only after distinct rooting in active growth; do not set the trunk deeper than before. A huge pot with much soil staying wet for long is no head start in growth. Add nutrients moderately according to a suitable fertiliser label, accounting for pre-fertilised substrate. To retain a compact crown overlong healthy branch tips can be selectively shortened above a leaf attachment. This may stimulate branching. Do not remove all green surfaces. Use gloves for pruning and keep sap off skin and out of eyes. The plant belongs outside the reach of children and pets.

Examine the crown closely in winter

On short days Fabian often grows more slowly. A bright warm position remains important while watering intervals may lengthen according to actual drying. Dry heated air stresses leaves and may encourage spider mites. Check undersides and leaf attachments too. Fine webs, pale feeding marks or cottony deposits deserve closer examination. Dust can be gently loosened with a soft slightly damp cloth while supporting young leaves. Yellow or dropping foliage is no clear single fault code. Compare position and rootball moisture and observe the next growth. A crown growing steadily is the best feedback on the chosen culture.

Pictures and details

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



AI-created leaf detail based on the original shop photograph: round dark Fabian leaves above a woody branch. Markings and leaf position may vary in living plants.



Unchanged original shop photograph of the offered plant. 12 cm pot · approx. 25–30 cm total height.

Good to know

Why the name Fiederaralie when leaves are round?

Fiederaralie is a common German group name. Fabian has broad simple rounded leaves instead of the finely divided foliage of some relatives.

Are Polyscias Fabian and the shop assignment scutellaria different plants?

This concerns the named selection Fabian. RHS lists it at genus level; the shop name is mentioned alongside for recognition.

Does the plant stay 30 cm tall?

Delivery height is not final height. Trunk, branches and crown may develop further in suitable culture.

Is watering once a week enough?

Needs depend on soil, light and warmth. Check the rootball before each watering and avoid a fixed calendar.

Can Fabian go in a windowless bathroom?

More humid air does not replace light. Without daylight suitable plant lighting would be needed.

What helps against leaf loss?

Check rootball moisture, draughts, temperature changes and light. More fertiliser or water are not automatic solutions.

How do I keep the crown more compact?

If needed shorten individual long branch tips during growth above a leaf attachment. Leave enough healthy leaves.

What matters when pruning?

Wear gloves and keep sap off skin and out of eyes. Do not eat the plant and keep beyond the reach of children and pets.

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English portrait



Shop offer