

# Culture Sheet: *Technical Information for Growers*

**Name:** *Adiantum pedatum, Athyrium sp., Dryopteris sp., Matteuccia struthiopteris, Osmunda sp., Polystichum sp., Thelypteris sp.* **Common name:** hardy ferns

## Scheduling Information

**Available sizes:** LP32 **Sales Window:** mid spring through summer

| Plug size       | LP32             | LP32       | LP32        |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|-------------|
| Finish size     | 1 qt             | 1 gal      | 3 gal       |
| Weeks to finish | 4-6 weeks        | 8-10 weeks | 10-14 weeks |
| When to plant   | Spring to summer | Spring     | Spring      |

## Growing on to Finish

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Media:</b>              | Professional potting media   |
| <b>pH:</b>                 | 5.0-5.5  |
| <b>Irrigation:</b>         | Soil should be kept evenly moist but not saturated. Be mindful of soil moisture for young plants in large containers. Adjust as needed for cooler winter months. Ferns love humidity and do best with consistent moisture in the roots but not sitting in water.         |
| <b>Fertilizer:</b>         | Avoid fertilizer for first 3 weeks after initial planting to allow root in. Light balanced feed with micronutrients applied at 100-200ppm N. Too much fertilizer causes tip burn of leaves and roots if plant becomes dry. Reduce fertilizer needs during cooler months. |
| <b>Light:</b>              | Adequate shade encourages lush, green foliage. Aim for 65-75% shade depending on greenhouse location and time of year. Signs of too much sun: sunscald or light green, stiff, and upright foliage.   |
| <b>Temperature:</b>        | Rooting out: above 60F, below 80F<br>Growing + Holding: consistent 72F day/night<br>Holding: Below 80F   |
| <b>Pest &amp; Disease:</b> | Aphids, mealybugs, scale, whitefly. Ferns are sensitive to many insecticides so make a test application first before treating entire crop.   |

## Grower Tips:

- Brown fronds indicate overwatering or an environment that is too dry
- Water stress can lead to graying foliage
- Too much light can result in lightly covered fronds

Disclaimer: Cultural information is provided as a guide only. North Creek Nurseries does not guarantee the exact results, as growth and finish times may vary depending upon your location, climate, cultural practices and other influences. Always check manufacturers' labels for approved rates and usage instructions when applying fertilizer or other chemicals.

Sources: Based on Boston fern data, *Nephrolepis exaltata*. Ball Redbook, Vol 2 18th Edition, [Cultural Guidelines for Commercial Production for Boston Fern](#), [Talking Ferns](#), [Six secrets to Successful Ferns](#)



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