

This fern has an imposing presence because of its large, antler-like fronds. These gray-green fronds rise out of non-fertile fronds and fork at the ends, giving them the appearance of antlers. The "antlers" are the fertile fronds, as they will produce the spores that can be used to propagate more ferns. The brown, papery, non-fertile fronds are the shield fronds that shield the roots that hold them tight to the trees they grow on. The brown fronds are often mistaken for dead parts of the plant, but they are not dead and should not be removed. They are actually old fronds that aged.



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*Platycerium bifurcatum*

## STAGHORN FERN



## Light

As these naturally grow on trees, they are used to a dappled light, but not full sun. Give them a medium to bright light with no direct sun.

Bright indirect/Medium

## Watering

Keep the potting soil moist from Spring to early Fall—set the pot in a tray of water for about 15 minutes if the round leaves have covered the potting soil, as soaking these can cause them to rot. Allow the top of the potting soil to dry out between waterings in Winter. Mist the leaves every day in the morning and set on a tray of wet pebbles, or install a room humidifier. Do not allow them to dry out. Rooms with high humidity are idea like bathrooms or kitchens. May need to mist the green fronds as well.

## Feeding

Feed monthly during the growing season with a balanced houseplant fertilizer, such as Espoma Organic Indoor Houseplant Food.

## Planting & Care

Grow with Black Gold® Orchid Mix or Espoma Orchid Mix, amended with horticultural charcoal if grown in soil. These can be mounted onto a piece of wood with sphagnum moss around the root system. Keep out of direct sunlight in a humid atmosphere. Repot every 2-3 years in Spring.

## Flower

Ferns do not produce flowers.

## Size

These can become sizeable plants. If the shield fronds cover the piece of wood they are on, attach the wood they are growing on to a large piece of wood.

## Temperature

50-75°F

## Humidity

High

## Care

Average

