

The Ming Aralia is one of those plants that was once popular but has since fallen from favor. True, it is a tad temperamental but no less so than other popular houseplants, and it's such a singular, exotic plant that it's well worth growing.

Although all the *polyscias* are Asian in appearance, none is much as the Ming Aralia. Its ferny, feathery foliage droops from graceful narrow branches that grow straight up in mature plants to form a many-layered, complex plant. A Ming Aralia grows slowly but can reach over 6 feet high. You can also use this plant for bonsai if you want an exotic miniature.



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*Polyscias fruticosa*

# MING ARALIA



## Light

The Ming Aralia like bright, indirect light. They do well in an east facing window with direct morning sun. Do NOT expose this plant to direct afternoon sun as it will burn the foliage. It can handle light shade.

Bright indirect

## Watering

It is important to keep this plant consistently moist but never saturated. Water the soil deeply and allow the top 2-3" to dry out before watering again. You can allow the plant to become almost dry in the winter. High humidity is essential, so provide plenty of humidity year-round.

## Feeding

Apply a liquid fertilizer like Espoma® Organic Indoor Liquid Organic Plant Food every 2 weeks from Spring to Fall.

## Planting & Care

Well draining soil is essential to keep the plants fine roots from rotting. Grow with Black Gold® All Purpose soil amended with perlite or horticultural charcoal. Choose a pot made of clay or terracotta to help wick extra moisture from the soil. Repot annually in the spring, increasing the pot size no more than 2 inches. When trimming as a bonsai, you can prune the delicate branches rather than wiring it into shape.

## Flower

While the Ming Aralia does produce a flower, it is difficult to have them flower indoors. They are mostly grown for their foliage.

## Size

They can typically get between 3-6 feet high and 2-4 feet wide.

## Temperature

65-85°F

## Humidity

High, this is necessary to keep your plant happy and healthy. Use a pebble tray or well place humidifier.

## Care

Specialized

If the plant is subject to cold or dry air, it will begin to drop leaf stems and quickly be completely denuded. The key is consistent warmth and humidity.

