Hardy Ribbon Fern

Pteris cretica var. nervosa



Hardy Ribbon Fern
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Hardy Cretan Brake, Bird's Foot Fern

Description:

Interesting, arching mound of shiny, light green, lanceolate fronds that are lightly crinkled; hardier than other members of species; a great garden groundcover or container plant

Ornamental Features

Hardy Ribbon Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive crinkled narrow compound leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning light green in color the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

Hardy Ribbon Fern is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Hardy Ribbon Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

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Planting & Growing

Hardy Ribbon Fern will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Hardy Ribbon Fern is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.