



Silvery glade fern

Deparia acrostichoides

(Swartz) M. Kato

The silvery glade fern is a common inhabitant of the bottoms of small stream valleys in the eastern United States. It can grow up to 3 or more feet tall, forming spreading colonies. The spore is borne on taller, more narrow fronds that arise in late summer long after the sterile fronds have grown. Just before the spores ripen, the indusia of the sori (the tissue flap that covers the spore-bearing organs) turns a silvery color, giving the back of the frond a silver appearance. This fern tolerates both moderate shade and moderate sun, but prefers soils that do not dry out excessively.

Growing instructions:

The silvery glade fern will grow well in most gardens and tolerates a wide range of pH. It prefers a humus-rich, moist soil. It will also grow in regular garden soil, but tends to become a bit ragged in the late summer if not watered well. Protect this fern from extreme dryness.

To grow spores:

Sterilize humus-rich soil (potting soil is usable) by baking in the oven at 250 degrees for two hours. Place it in a closable but transparent or translucent container and water thoroughly. Once the soil is consistently moist, spread the spore. Place the box in a location where it will not be too hot or cold and in several weeks, you should see moss-like growth. This will be many individual small “gametophytes”, which will eventually sprout the new ferns. If several months go by and no new ferns appear, it may be necessary to ensure that there more moisture on the gametophytes. Once the infant sporophytes sprout, they may be transplanted into pots or other containers, but be sure they don’t dry out. They need to be hardened gradually to drier air. Other methods of spore propagation are possible.

Conservation Seed

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