

Wolf's-Foot Clubmoss, Staghorn Clubmoss

Lycopodium clavatum L.



The wolf's-foot clubmoss is a beautiful plant of the Appalachians and the upper American northeast. It is a fast-growing, far-ranging, ground-hugging plant, so be prepared to keep it contained! However, it can be a truly breathtaking groundcover. It is hardy at least to northern zone 4.

This plant, a member of the primitive, spore-bearing lycophyte group (there are three groups of higher plants: seed plants, ferns and fern allies, and lycophytes), likes fairly high light levels and likes moisture if not stagnant, but dislikes heat. Often grows on moist roadside banks in nature.

To grow spore:

Clubmosses have brown, subterranean gametophytes which look nothing like fern gametophytes. I recommend direct-sowing these outside where you want them to grow. The gametophytes may live underground for several years before sprouting out into the new plant.