



Ferns are slightly psychotic when it comes to watering. They like their soil both wet and dry at the same time. Basically, they need extremely well drained soil, that also has good water holding capacity. Use a high peat content soil that has some bark and perlite to improve drainage in the pot. Also, make sure that the water drains away from the bottom of the pots. Ferns don't like to sit in water and they will rot from the roots up. During the growing process, don't use saucers or trays under the pots.

Ferns prefer slightly acidic soil (5.5 to 6.7). Use a general-purpose water-soluble fertilizer such as Peters 20-20-20 or 20-10-20 at a rate of approximately 125 to 175 parts per million on a constant feed. Do not use in conjunction with granulated slow release fertilizers. If you use slow release, apply at 2 to 3 pounds per cubic yard of soil. Do not mix the two fertilizer types. Your ferns can be burned.

If possible, water in such a way that the foliage does not become wet. If you cannot avoid wetting foliage, water early in the day to allow foliage to dry.

Tropical ferns prefer a little more light than perennial varieties.

Perennials – 1000 to 2000 foot-candles

Tropicals – 1500 to 3000 foot-candles