

RESURRECTI ON FERN

(polypodium polypodioides)

Resurrection fern is an epiphyte that grows attached to branches of forest trees and sometimes upon rocks or dry ground.

When dry, the resurrection fern is gray, scaly and curled up in wad, but when moisture returns the fronds resurrect becoming soft and green and unfurling to regain its original shape.

You can maintain resurrection fern on the bark of an oak log or orchid type planting materials, allowing it to dry out periodically, then spraying it with water to see it unfold in just minutes. But this weird little fern is at its best on living trees, especially large oaks.

Resurrection fern is not a parasite. It gets its water and nutrients from rain and dust, and causes no harm to the tree that supports it. This little plant is sometimes sold as a novelty item in gift shops and as a mail-order "miracle plant" on the back covers of comic books and magazines.

Hardy zones 8a - 11 growing in filtered sun or shade.

GROWING INSTRUCTIONS:

Upon receipt of your fern it may be dehydrated from the trip; take it out and place it in a fully shaded location and mist it with cool water to revive it. These grow naturally on the lower branches of trees in full shade or filtered sunlight, so plan to keep your fern somewhere that would mimic that environment. You can grow it on an old oak log, a living tree or other orchid-type growing medium. Attach your fern by tying it with a wire or string to the growing medium to give it a chance to take a hold of it's own. If your fern currently has bark attached to it, I suggest attaching the whole thing, old bark and fern, to the new growing medium, but the fern can be removed from the old bark by carefully peeling the brown web of root-like runners away from the old bark trying not to break them in the process. If they break into pieces, attach all the pieces as long as they have the brown 'roots' , even if the leaves come off.

If you keep your fern watered regularly it will stay green and flush, if you want to amaze your friends with bringing a plant back to life, allow it to dry and 'shrivel up' then spritz it with cool water to resurrect it before their eyes!

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