

Botanical Name: Microlepia strigosa

Common Name: Lace fern

Type of Plant: fern: perennial Family Polypodiaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright, arching, fine-textured fern with light-colored fronds; relatively soft, not stiff, finely hairy fronds

Height 2 to 3' Spread 2 to 3' Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors shade to partial shade preferred

Soil prefers rich, well-amended soils

Hardiness some frost (to 28 deg.) zones 17, 23, 24

Morphology:

Leaves apple-green, fine-textured fronds to 3 ft. long, 12" wide pinnae to 3" long, slightly ruffled; hairless on petioles

Flowers none

Fruit sori- nearly linear, 1-16" wide at margins

Propagation: spore, division

Usage: good shade filler for tropical or temperate climate areas; mixes well with other ferns; good in containers, in patio gardens and in atriums

Landscape Care:

Watering takes average water; can tolerate more drought than most ferns

Fertilizing low nitrogen fertilizer in spring

Pruning remove dead fronds

Pests/Diseases none major

Other roots need good aeration; careful watering needed in large pots

Origin: Polynesia to Southeast Asia