



Crocodile and Staghorn Ferns

A tale of two ferns... the beauty on the left is commonly referred to as a Crocodile Fern (*Microsorium musifolium*) because the vein pattern on its leaves looks like crocodile scales. The sweet one on the right is a trusty Staghorn Fern (*Platycerium bifurcatum*).

How they differ: The Crocodile Fern is relatively new to our store so we're still learning about its care and quirks, whereas the Staghorn is a staple 'round these parts. So far, it seems the Croc fern may be less tolerant of cold (like, isn't happy with anything below 55F), where the Staghorn is a bit more hardy.

What they have in common: They are both epiphytes, meaning that in their natural habitat they grow off the side of trees! Due to the thicker, leathery texture of their leaves, they can handle more instability in watering habits and humidity levels compared to ferns with more delicate, feathery leaves (hello Maidenhair). They want BRIGHT SHADE (which means more light than you might think a fern would want, especially in the winter when the sun is scarce and weak) but not direct sunlight or they get sunburned, just like us! As always, care requirements will depend on your environment, but it's generally good to water them once a week in the dry winter months and possibly less in the humid summer. Just don't overwater!! And lastly, of course, both would add structural or visual interest to your home and/or existing plant collection!

☀️ **Light: Bright shade**

💧 **Water: Keep moist (water 1-2x per week, depending on the season and your environment)**

🌱 **Soil: A moisture retentive soil, like general houseplant soil with some added peat or coir**

🐱🐶 **Pet Safe? No**

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