



Meyeri Fern *Asparagus densiflorus*

The Meyeri Fern is not a true fern as they propagate by seed and do not produce spores. The name most likely originated from the fact that they have clumping habits akin to ferns. The Meyeri has outward sprawling fibrous roots. They are a very hearty specimen plant for zones 9-11 and flourish with little care. They like part shade to part sun. If they are planted in the full sun, they become more compact and dense. When established they are drought resistant and quite pest resistant. They grow up to 2' tall by 2' wide and bloom in late winter to early spring.

They are an evergreen offering green foliage year-round, first blooming with white flowers that then form red berries holding the seed pods. The birds enjoy these berries and will take the seeds and distribute them in different areas. They are often seen in local landscapes and are also used in creative flower arrangements.

Spring is the best time for pruning and shaping. Pinch back stem tips as needed to maintain the plant form. Cut back yellowed or dead stems at soil level. Every two to three years you can do a hard pruning to rejuvenate growth. Cut back to 2-3" above soil. This is also a great time to divide the plant in half or quarters.

Dig up the root ball and you will notice that there are tubers and fleshy roots. Look for a spot where you can divide, loosen and move roots out of the way to cut. It is much safer for the plant if you use a stick to enter the root ball and go slow in order not to destroy the roots. Transplant the sections into a pot with moist, acidic soil and place in light shade. There will be new growth in 1-2 months.

