

# FERNS as Houseplants

## Common Name:

Silver Brake Fern, Cretan Table Fern

## Botanical Name:

*Pteris* [TEH' riss] *cretica*



## Light & Temperature needs:

- Bright indirect light year round. Can handle fluorescent light.
- Can handle a usual range of household temperatures- 55°F to 75°F.

## Water:

- Keep the potting mix lightly moist at all times.
- This Mediterranean fern needs slightly less water than its rainforest cousins, so take care not to overwater. That said, a humidity tray is still a good idea.
- Hot, dry air will make the fronds turn yellow.

## Feeding information and General Care tips:

- Feed like most houseplants during our spring-summer with fertilizer diluted to half strength. Once a month from March through September.
- You may not need to water this fern as often as others but it also thrives on a humidity tray.
- Cut off yellow fronds at the base. Prune too tall fronds at the base to encourage new growth and a smaller shape.

## Best location in home:

- Silver Brake Fern is easy enough to leave on stand back from a window but out of the way of passersby.
- Too much direct sunlight will wash out or scorch the foliage.
- Cool nights and moist air will keep this small fern healthy indoors.

## Example of how to enjoy it:

- Place your Silver Brake Fern away from direct sunlight and even under fluorescent light.
- Check moisture levels every 3 days until you have an idea of its needs.
- Probably the easiest fern to maintain. This one does not give a grower such a hard time if the soil does dry out from time to time (some ferns die).