

Scouler's Polypody



Scouler's Polypody

Polypodium scouleri

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 30 inches

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Leathery Polypody, Coast Polypody, Leather Leaf

Description:

A clumping fern variety producing irregular fronds of leathery, glossy leaves; a nice groundcover for a woodland area; great in hanging baskets or containers, for indoors or out



Scouler's Polypody foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Scouler's Polypody's attractive glossy ferny pinnately compound leaves remain dark green in colour throughout the year on a plant with a mounded habit of growth. The tan stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Scouler's Polypody is a dense herbaceous annual with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Scouler's Polypody is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

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Planting & Growing

Scouler's Polypody will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 30 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Scouler's Polypody is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.