

Nephrolepis × averyi



Multiply Your Green: Propagating Your Avery's Fishtail Fern

The Avery's Fishtail Fern (*Nephrolepis × averyi*), with its cascading fronds of intricately-cut foliage, is a sight to behold. Bringing a touch of the tropics indoors, this fern is a popular choice for its air-purifying qualities and lush appearance. If you're lucky enough to have one gracing your home, you might be wondering how to create more of these beauties. Good news! Propagating Avery's Fishtail Ferns isn't as difficult as you might think. Let's dive into the methods that will have you well on your way to a fern-filled paradise.

Understanding the Fishtail Fern

Before we get our hands dirty (figuratively, of course), it's helpful to understand a bit about how these ferns grow. Unlike some plants that readily grow from seeds or cuttings, Avery's Fishtail Ferns reproduce primarily through **division** and **runners**.

Division involves separating a mature plant into smaller

sections, each with its own roots. **Runners**, on the other hand, are long, trailing stems that sprout baby plantlets, often referred to as "pups."

Method 1: Division – Sharing is Caring

This method is best undertaken in spring when your fern shows signs of new growth.

What you'll need:

- Sharp, clean shears or a knife
- Fresh potting mix
- Pots with drainage holes (size depends on the division size)

Steps:

1. **Carefully remove your fern from its pot.** You might need to loosen the soil around the edges to avoid damaging the roots.
2. **Examine the root ball.** Look for natural divisions where the plant has already started to separate.
3. **Using your shears or knife, carefully separate the root ball.** Ensure each division has a healthy amount of roots and fronds attached.
4. **Pot up your divisions.** Plant each section in a pot slightly larger than its root system using fresh potting mix. Water thoroughly.

Method 2: Runner Propagation – Pups with Potential

Avery's Fishtail Ferns often send out runners with tiny plantlets. These "pups" offer a fantastic opportunity for easy propagation.

What you'll need:

- Small pots filled with a well-draining potting mix
- A sharp, clean knife or pair of scissors

Steps:

1. **Identify healthy runners with developed plantlets.** Look for pups with several leaves and a small root system.
2. **Sever the runner.** Make a clean cut just before and after the plantlet, leaving a small section of runner attached.
3. **Pot the pup.** Gently plant the pup in its pot, burying the runner segment along with the roots. Water thoroughly.

Caring for Your New Ferns

Place your newly potted ferns in a brightly lit area, but out of direct sunlight. Keep the soil consistently moist, but avoid overwatering. With a little time and TLC, your new ferns will establish themselves and reward you with their vibrant beauty.

A Few Extra Tips:

- Always use sterilized tools to prevent the spread of disease.
- Fishtail Ferns thrive in humid environments. Consider placing your pots on a tray filled with pebbles and water to increase humidity.
- Be patient! It takes time for new plants to establish themselves. Avoid repotting until the roots start to outgrow their containers.

Propagating your Avery's Fishtail Fern is a rewarding experience that allows you to multiply your green companions and share the joy of these stunning plants with others. With a little patience and these simple techniques, you'll be enjoying an abundance of lush greenery in no time!