

# SEED SPORE PTERIDOMANIA UNDERGROUND

How to sow these are the spiders

the ferns that guard my plants  
by: The Magik Garden

This guide is not about spore collection. You do not need to know this starting out. You can join the American Fern Society (\$20+/year) and obtain spore from their exchange. They also share guides on sowing as well as collecting spore. This is just how I started out. I recommend saving clear deli containers (or salad mix) mixing some of my Magik seed-starting mix (and/or zip top bags and clean pots).

Once your ferns begin to pop up, leave the bag open slightly to allow some air exchange. You will harden them off later.

If you love my work and appreciate my art, and ferns, especially, check out my Pteridophile shirt on horticulture.threadless.com It is a love story between two gametophytes with a baby sporophyte! The Perfect heart-themed gift for Valentine's Day!

You can also buy seed-starting mix, but it must be sterile. That means no organic compost, fertilizers or anything that supports life... IT MUST BE AS DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE AS A PROPER VICTORIAN'S OUTWARD EMOTIONAL DISPLAY STOPS. DEMURE. UTTERLY EMPTY. You can reuse pots or deli containers, just be sure to scrub them properly. (Also free up some freezer space. You'll need it.)

sow spore sparsely on sterilized sterile soil

close the bag... and then you wait... (leave it out in warm, lit space) eventually you'll see gametophytes. →

Spray weekly, using distilled water. Periodically try a spray fertilizer for epiphytes. soon...

you will see a sporophyte. aka, a baby fern!

## STERILIZE THE STERILE SOIL

you will need boiling water

Any pots you use: test first with boiling water and/or wave (Amderson pots are ok)

Fill the container with pre-moistened soil. If using microwave method, should be watered in well. (filled)

## SOW AND GROW

You will need to obtain ZeroTol or something similar. It is a greenhouse disinfectant. Follow the label to prepare.

Prepare your spore by tapping off "chaff" on a sheet of paper. Chaff is heavier and drops off. Collect remaining spore into a paper envelope. By folding the paper + tapping to get spore in the middle.

You can sow directly from envelope or use a sterilized toothpick (single-pack) to scoop out spore.

## Microwave method (kinda smelly)

Place soil-filled pots inside gallon zip-top bags, leaving bag partially open, or half-filled salad containers in the microwave. Heat 10-20 min (temp = 180°F) Remove + seal immediately.

## Boiling water method

Boil water (distilled). Place pots with soil in zip-top bag. Pour boiling water into pots / seal deli container soil carefully. Seal immediately. Cool overnight, then freeze.