

## *Asparagus densiflorus* 'Myers' Myers Asparagus Fern<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

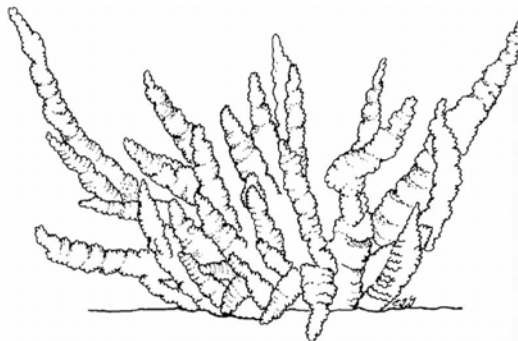
'Myers' Asparagus Fern is a spreading perennial herb that has a fine texture with a stiff, upright habit (Fig. 1). The habit is quite unlike that of the more common 'Sprengeri' Fern. This plant grows fairly rapidly and may attain a height of about 2 feet. The true leaves of this fern are scale-like and inconspicuous. The structures that most consider to be the leaves of this plant are actually narrow, light green, leaf-like branchlets called cladophylls. The stems of the Asparagus Fern emerge directly from the ground and are stiffly erect and have very short branches. These stems are a bit woody and are often armed with sharp spines. The flowers are white or pale pink and occur in axillary racemes that are 1/4 inch long; they are not showy. The bright red berries of this herb, however, are quite showy.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Asparagus densiflorus* 'Myers'

**Pronunciation:** ass-SPAR-uh-gus den-sif-FLOR-us

**Common name(s):** 'Myers' Asparagus Fern



**Figure 1.** 'Myers' Asparagus Fern

**Family:** *Liliaceae*

**Plant type:** herbaceous; perennial

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** mass planting; container or above-ground planter; groundcover; border; cascading down a wall; suitable for growing indoors; accent

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**Figure 2.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

**Description**

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 4 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** fine

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** linear

**Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristic:** flowers periodically throughout the year

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** red

**Fruit characteristic:** attracts birds

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

## Pests and Diseases

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

Other than mites, none of major concern.

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade

**Soil tolerances:** occasionally wet; slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** good

**Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

## Use and Management

The Asparagus Fern may be used as a specimen, border, ground cover, bedding plant, or container plant. It will not cascade over a wall like the 'Sprengeri' cultivar because the habit is upright, but could be used as a small, low-growing unclipped hedge or border. It will make a nice accent plant in a small residential landscape or rock garden. In a sunny location indoors it maintains a fairly nice plant for several years.

Grow this plant in full sun or partial shade, and plant it in well-drained soil. Keep it irrigated regularly, especially in a container.

Asparagus Fern may be propagated by seeds and by division of the tubers.