Bird’s Nest Fern

Today on Gardening in a Minute: the bird’s nest fern.

The Bird’s nest fern is a striking plant that thrives in Florida’s humid climate.

It makes a lush addition to shaded, protected areas of the landscape, where it can shine as a specimen or a container plant. As an epiphyte, the bird’s nest fern can even be grown on a fibrous slab wired to a tree.

The large, stemless, bright-green leaves of the bird’s nest fern have a black, prominent midrib and unfurl from a tight center, giving the plant the appearance that inspired its name.

The bird’s nest fern eventually reaches about four feet tall and wide. Plant it in an area with moist, rich soil. Like many ferns, this plant is not drought-tolerant, so don’t let it dry out.

Repot your bird’s nest fern in spring, when the new growth begins.

For more information about ferns and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.