

Aralias

Many plants go by the common name "Aralia"!

Ming Aralia (*Polyscias fruticosa*), **Parsley Aralia** (*P. fruticosa* 'Elegans'), **Balfour Aralia** (*P. balfouriana*), **Shield Aralid** (*P. scutellaria*), **False Aralia or Spider-leafed Aralia** (*Pterandra elegantissima*, formerly *Dizygothica elegantissima*), **Japanese Aralia** (*Aralia sieboldii*, *Fatsia sieboldii*)

Often available as green or variegated varieties, Aralias are an elegant, easy-care houseplant. They can also be found as "bonsai". Care is similar to other houseplants.

Light:

Best appearance when grown in bright indirect sun, though they will tolerate moderate light. In moderate light growth may become more pale.

Water & Fertilizer:

Water thoroughly when moderately dry, discarding any water that runs through and accumulates in the saucer or cachepot. Fertilize monthly in spring and summer.

Temperature & Humidity:

Prefers warm home temperatures, avoid cold drafts from doors, windows or air-conditioning. Aralias prefer high humidity. Regular misting and/or pebble trays can help.

Repotting:

When your Aralia outgrows its pot, repot into a new home a few inches wider.

Pests:

Mealybugs, spidermites, scale and whitefly can infest Aralias. Treat at the first sign of pests. As with many houseplants, overwatering is a common problem.

Pruning:

If your Aralia becomes too tall, the tallest canes can be "chopped" and new growth will sprout from the cut end. This may take some time, and requires a bright location to encourage sprouting. Cut in early spring and hide the cuts by trimming to a point slightly below the leaves of the next-smaller canes.



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Aralias are closely related to common ivy, *Hedera helix*. The *Fatsia* type can be crossed with *Hedera* to create xFatshedera



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