



WEST COAST
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Plant Feature: Ming Aralia



Bring effortless sculptural elegance to any space with ***Polyscias fruticosa***, commonly known as the **Ming Aralia**. This refined tropical delivers delicate, lacy foliage and an upright, architectural form—instantly elevating interiors with serene, botanical sophistication.

Why you'll love it:

-  **Upright, Architectural Presence:** The Ming Aralia grows **strongly upright**, making it perfect for tight spaces, corners, hallways, and entry areas with good light. Its finely divided, feathery leaves emerge along the **entire length of each stem**, creating a remarkably full, cloud-like silhouette that brings height without bulk.
-  **Distinctive, Full-Foliaged Texture:** Multiple stems (we never sell singles!) grow together to form a sculptural, bonsai-like clump. Its lacy foliage and refined branching structure add an elevated, design-forward look that retailers and interior stylists love.
-  **Excellent Indoor Adaptability:** Thrives in **bright, indirect to high light**, and tolerates medium light—just avoid low-light spaces. Its upright habit conserves floor space while offering vertical greenery ideal for modern and minimalist interiors.
-  **Year Round Style:** A slow-to-moderate grower that holds its form with minimal pruning. Simply trim leggy or thinning stems to encourage denser branching.
-  **Low water needs:** The Ming Aralia **does not like a lot of water**. Allow it to dry out between waterings—keeping it constantly wet may lead to root issues. Performs beautifully in self-watering or sub-irrigated systems as long as the reservoir isn't kept full.
-  **Acclimates Slowly (Handle With Care!):** This plant is known for its delicate nature. It **dislikes shock**, may drop leaves if disturbed, and should **not be repotted immediately** after purchase. Allow it time to settle into its new environment before changing pots or moving it around too often.
-  **Versatile Styling:** Often used as a **standalone statement plant in a decorative pot**. Its upright growth allows it to be placed where many other plants won't fit—corners, near doorways (with good light), hall ends, and architectural niches.
-  **Size:** We offer full, multi-stem specimens. Our heights range from **4–8 ft**, and indoors they will typically max out around **8–9 ft**. We currently offer these sizes:
 - **2 gallon:** 4 stems
 - **3 gallon:** 5 stems
 - **5 gallon:** 6 stems (*pictured*)
 - **7 gallon:** 7 stems

Additional Names: *Polyscias fruticosa* (Ming Aralia)

Perfect for:

Design-forward interiors, retailers seeking distinctive statement plants, residential corners, entryways, hallways, and any setting requiring an upright plant with sculptural charm. While not the most common plant due to its delicacy, people who choose the Ming Aralia love it for its unique, elegant look.

Additional Information:

The **Ming Aralia** is a finely textured, woody tropical shrub native to **Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands**. It grows naturally under bright forest canopies, explaining its preference for **high filtered light** and **lower water** than many tropicals. Its upright stems and foliage that grows along the entire trunk give it a dense, full, vertical form that makes the plant appear both airy and substantial at the same time.

Because of its sensitivity to environmental changes, the Ming Aralia should be allowed to **fully acclimate** before repotting or transitioning to a new container. When stressed—by overwatering, cold drafts, or sudden moves—it may drop leaves, but it typically rebounds once conditions stabilize.

We also grow **Black Aralias** and **Fabian Aralias**, which offer similar dramatic structure and pair beautifully nearby (but not in the same soil).




Grower's tip:

- **Let it acclimate before repotting.** Do *not* transplant right away.
- Water sparingly—this plant prefers to **dry out** rather than stay moist.
- Avoid sudden changes in light, temperature, or placement.
- Keep it warm and give it plenty of indirect light to maintain full foliage.

Pairs well with:

The Ming Aralia should be planted **alone in its own pot**, but can be visually paired with low-growing plants nearby. Black Aralia and Fabian Aralia offer a complementary look.

Key characteristics:

Attribute	Profile
Light	 High
Water	 Low
Pest Resistance	 Average
Growth Habit	 4-7ft
Popularity	 Stable