

Gold Ming Aralia (*Polyscias fruticosa*) is a popular ornamental houseplant, known for its attractive, lacy foliage and bushy growth. It's relatively easy to care for but does need some specific conditions to thrive. Here's how to take care of a Ming Aralia:

1. Light

- **Bright, Indirect Light:** Ming Aralia thrives in bright, indirect light. Too much direct sunlight can scorch the leaves, while insufficient light can cause it to become leggy.
- **Avoid Low Light:** Although it can tolerate lower light, it will grow slower and may not be as vibrant.

2. Watering

- **Moderate Watering:** Water when the top 1-2 inches of soil feels dry. Make sure the pot has good drainage to avoid root rot.
- **Avoid Overwatering:** Let the soil dry out slightly between waterings, but don't let it stay dry for too long.
- **Humidity:** Ming Aralia enjoys humidity, so misting the leaves or placing a humidifier nearby is beneficial, especially during winter when indoor air can be dry. Take care not to saturate the leaves, though, as this can lead to fungal issues.

3. Temperature

- **Ideal Temperature Range:** Keep the plant in a warm room, between 60°F and 75°F (15°C to 24°C). It does not tolerate cold drafts or temperatures below 50°F (10°C).
- **Avoid Cold Drafts:** Keep away from windows that open frequently or air conditioning/heating vents.

4. Soil

- **Well-Draining Soil:** Use a well-draining potting mix, such as a standard indoor plant mix with added perlite or sand for extra drainage. This will help prevent water from pooling at the bottom of the pot.

5. Pruning and Shaping

- **Regular Pruning:** Prune back any leggy stems to encourage a bushier shape and remove any dead or yellowing leaves. You can also trim the top if you want to control the height.
- **Shaping:** If you want to shape your Ming Aralia, trim the branches to keep the plant compact and tidy.

6. Pests

- **Watch for Pests:** Ming Aralia can attract pests like spider mites, aphids, and mealybugs. Regularly check the leaves and stems for any signs of infestations, and treat with insecticidal soap or wipe with a damp cloth.

