



Staghorns Not on Trees

Cultivating Staghorn Ferns Off the Tree & Propagation

with Sandy Troy

January 12, 2026



Journey to Less Lanai Mess



Less Mess... No soil



Staghorn

1. Basics

2. Lanai Cultivation

3. Propagation

4. Guessing



References

[Ask UF IFAS: Staghorn Fern – Gardening Solutions](#)

[Enjoy epiphytes? Try staghorn ferns! - UF/IFAS Extension Charlotte County](#)

Facebook Staghorn Fern Owners Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/169581857915>

18 Species of Platyceriums or Staghorn Ferns



Herb Halling

12K subscribers

Three Natural Groups

Malayan-Asiatic Java-Australian Afro-American



Three Natural Groups

Java-Australian

Malayan-Asiatic

Afro-American

Willinckii

Superbum

Alcicorne

Veitchii

Holttumii

Ellisii

Bifurcatum

Grande

Stemaria

Hillii

Wandae

Elephantotis

Wallichii

Andinum

Coronarum

Quadridichotomum

Ridleyi

Madagascariense



30 cultivars Bifurcatum

Staghorns

18 + Species

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Alcicorne | 10. Madagascariense |
| 2. Andinum | 11. Quadridichotomum |
| 3. Bifurdcatum | 12. Ridleyi |
| 4. Coronarium | 13. Stemaria |
| 5. Ellisii | 14. Superbum |
| 6. Elephantotis | 15. Veitchi |
| 7. Grande | 16. Wandae |
| 8. Hillii | 17. Wallichii |
| 9. Holttumii | 18. Willinckii |

+ hybrids

EPIPHYTE



Orchids

Bromeliads (like Spanish moss)

Air plants (Tillandsia)

Many ferns and mosses

T or F Epiphyte

T or F

1. Grows on another plant for physical support?
2. Does *not* take nutrients from it?
3. Not a parasite?

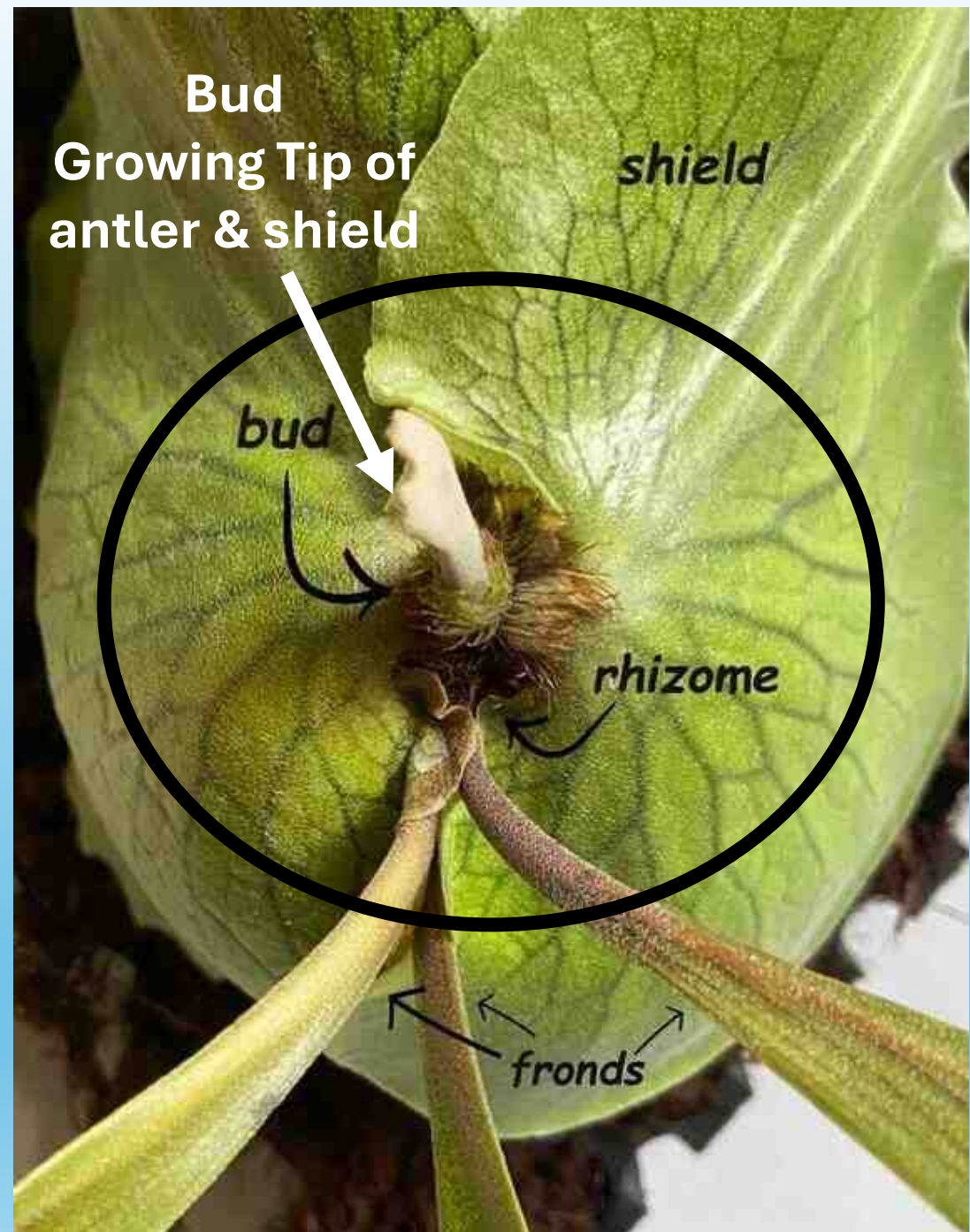
Epiphyte – Staghorn ferns

Gets moisture & nutrients from the air, rain, debris, and **decaying** shields



SHADE





Normal Growth

**OLD
DRY
Shield**



**New
Green
Shield**

**OLD
Shields**

**Feed
staghorn**



Normal Growth

Antler Fronds
develop spores

Antlers fall off



Old Antlers Fall Off



Staghorn

1. Lanai Cultivation
2. Propagation
3. Photo Guessing

LANAI CULTIVATION



- Benefits
- Sun
- Water, humidity, rain
- Nutrition
- Issues?



**Benefits
as a Lanai Plant?**

**No soil
Little mess
Tropical look**

Cultivation

- Lanai Screen
- East Exposure
- Gets Rain



Nutrition Option

Once a month
in warm season

$\frac{1}{4}$ strength

NPK: 10, 10, 10

Miracle gro
and/or fish
emulsion

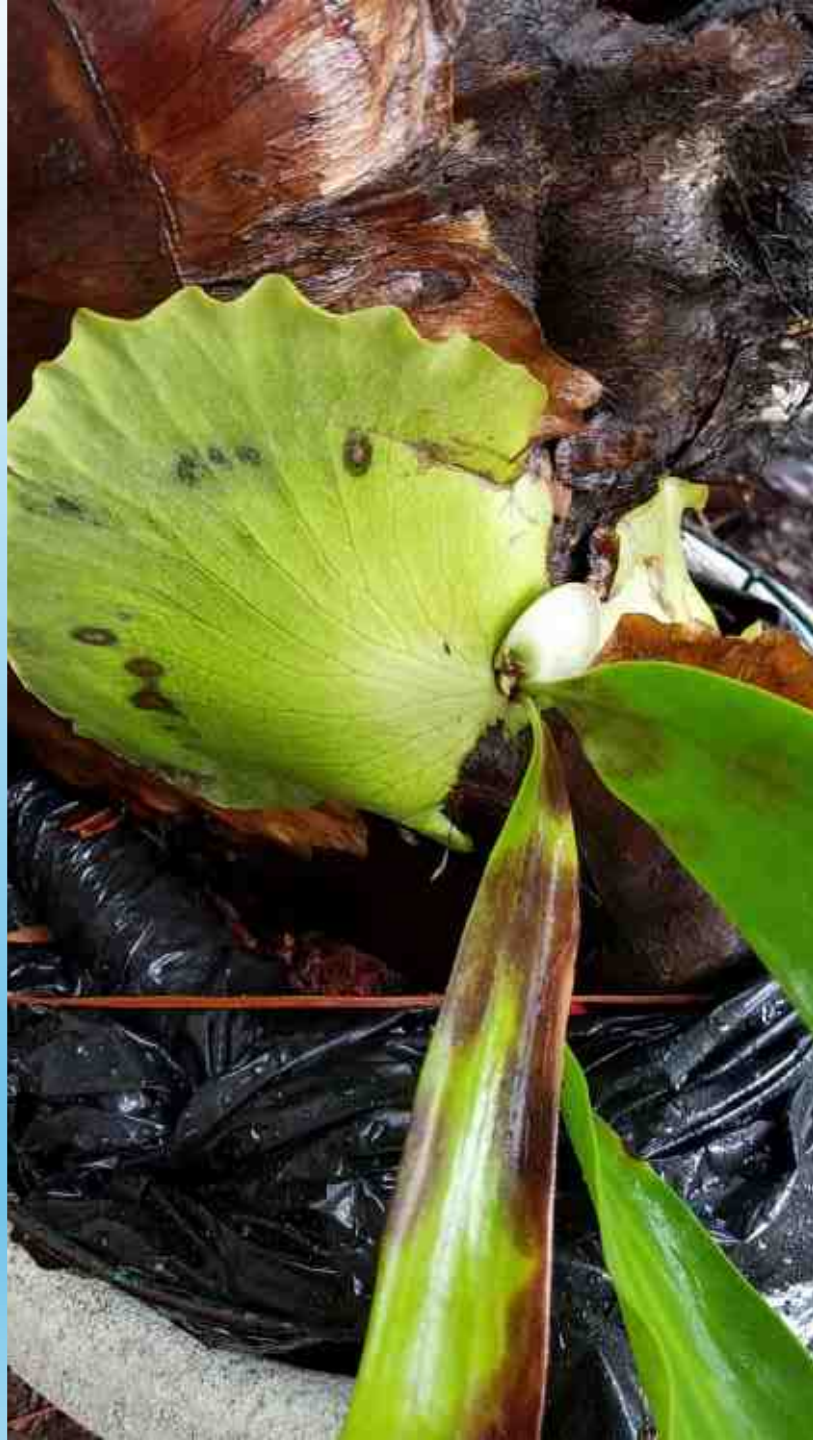


Issues?



Fungus

Over watering



They like
to dry out



**Rotate Toward
the
Sun
Occasionally**

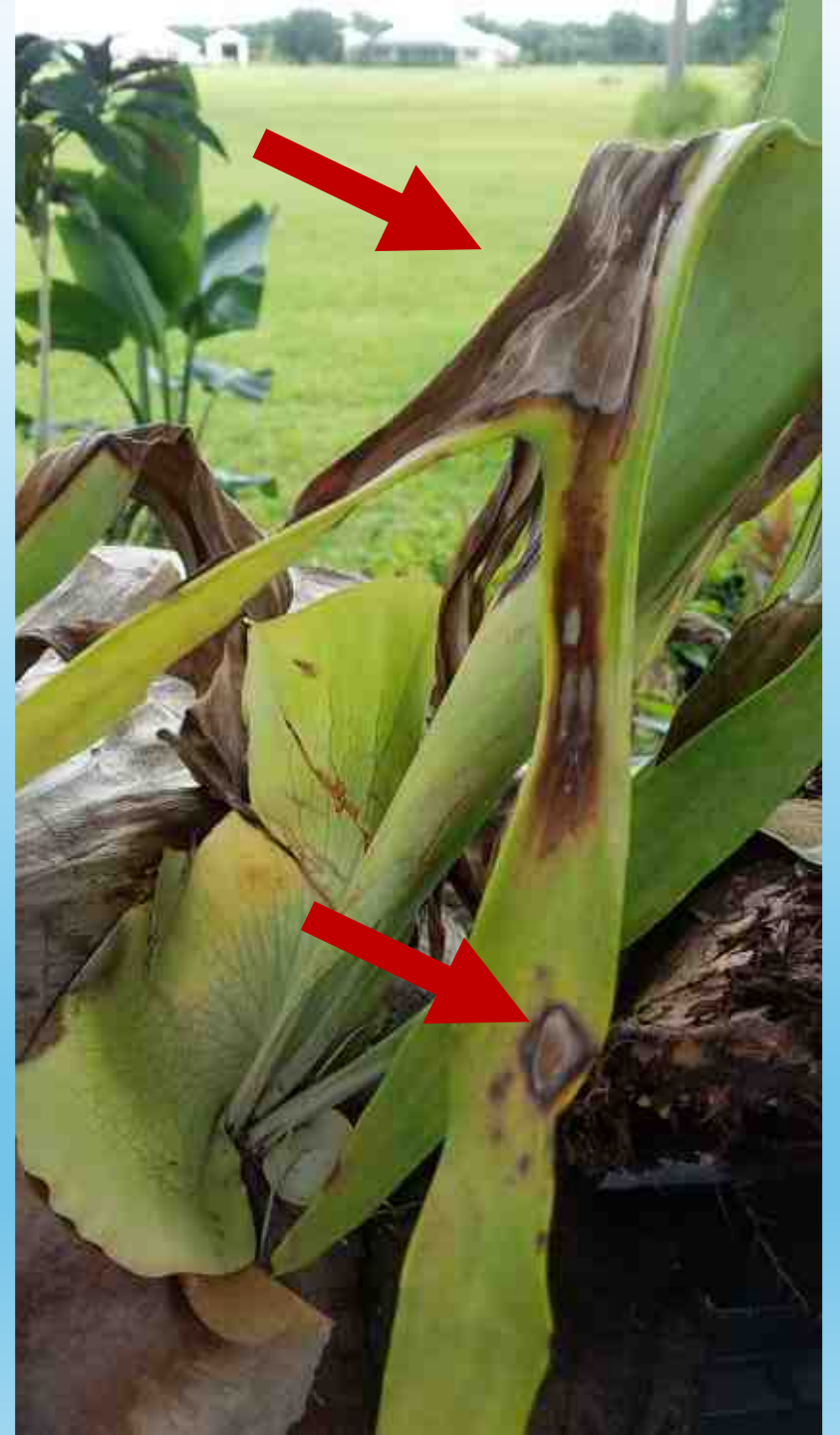


Add Weight

**Put
pavers/bricks
in bottom of
planters**



SUN DAMAGE





2019 Three Months in Shade Under Oak tree





3 months





THREE EASY MOUNTING OPTIONS

A.
Empty
Planter
&
Hanging
Basket



$\frac{3}{4}$ inch bamboo large staghorns



Plant is 60+ in. wide

Empty container

**Basket
suspended by
bamboo**

**The staghorn when
dry weighs about
15 to 20 lbs**





Platycerium bifurcatum





**All three options benefit from
rolling stand**



Bosmere Down Under Plant Caddy



[Click to see full view](#)

Bosmere S20410 Down Under Plant Caddy, Heavy Duty Plant Stand with Wheels, 500lb Capacity, 20-Inch, Black

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4.7 ★★★★★ (7,016)

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