

Halton Region Master Gardeners

Come Grow With Us



Potted Plant Identification

I received a potted plant from some friends recently and am completely flummoxed as to what the plants are. I spent about 1/2 hour going through every indoor plant in my University of Guelph Plant Identification course material - but nothing in there seems to match what is in this pot (and there were 30 plants in the work file with images and description!) One of them seems to be English Ivy - but the other two plants - which I know I have seen before - I have not been able to identify. Can you help me?

David



You've got a mixture of plants in that pot. One is Ivy. Another is a type of tropical Tree Fern (long, wavy strappy leaves). It could be a Java Fern or a Blue Star Fern (*Phlebodeum aureum*). The last plant looks to me like a Bonsai- sized evergreen. If so, it is a variety of Dwarf Hinoki Cypress called *Chamaecyparis nana aurea*. Or in another direction it could be a Selaginella or Spikemoss. You also have Spanish moss in that pot *Tillandsia usneoides* (a bromeliad) which appears to be alive, though often they use the dead stuff as decoration.

Donna