

HARDY FERNS

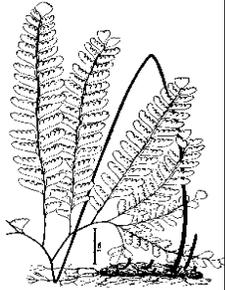
HUMBER NURSERIES 'GREEN THUMB GUIDE'



Denotes Native Fern

ADIANTUM

Among the most beautiful and popular ferns, Maidenhair Ferns thrive in rich moist soil and can be grown in full sun if moisture is adequate. They slowly spread to form a compact colony. Each black stalk is forked into many-fingered fronds with fan-shaped segments.



MAIDENHAIR FERN

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Adiantum pedatum
(45-60 cm) Zone 2

Despite its delicate appearance it is a very hardy fern and one of the most popular. Easy to grow.

ASPLENIUM and PHYLLITIS

The spleenworts are mainly small lime-loving ferns with evergreen fronds. Suitable for a limestone rock garden or in association with concrete structures or mortared walls. Normal garden soil can be amended with horticultural lime. All will take full sun for at least part of the day.

CRESTED HART'S TONGUE FERN

Asplenium scolopendrium 'Cristata'
(*Phyllitis*)
(30 cm) Zone 5

Shiny dark green uncut fronds with forked tips. An evergreen form that benefits from lime. Great in a rock garden. Sun or shade

EBONY SPLEENWORT



Asplenium platyneuron
(15-45 cm) Zone 5
Does not particularly need lime. Prefers fairly dry conditions in gritty soil. Do not over water.



EBONY SPLEENWORT

HART'S TONGUE FERN

Asplenium scolopendrium
(15-45 cm) Zone 5
Known often as *Phyllitis s.* The uncut fronds are fully evergreen.

ATHYRIUM

Lady Ferns have finely cut and airy foliage. Originating in Japan, Europe and North America. All will take considerable sun if the soil is dependably moist.



LADY FERN

LADY FERN



Athyrium filix-femina
(60-90 cm). Zone 4
A strong grower with beautiful feathery Fronds, 30 – 60 cms long.

SOUTHERN LADY FERN



Athyrium asplenoides
(75 cm) Zone 4
Nice addition to woodland gardens. Perfectly hardy in Ontario

EMERALD TATTING FERN

Athyrium filix-femina 'Frizelliae'
(45 cm) Zone 5
Fronde leaflets reduced to pairs of green disks like an emerald necklace.

URSULA'S PAINTED FERN

Athyrium nipponicum 'Ursula's Red'
(40 cm) Zone 4
New clonal selection of Japanese Painted Fern. A colourful fern with silver leaves and contrasting wine red veins.

CRESTED LADY FERN

Athyrium filix-femina 'Vernonia Cristata'
(60 cm) Zone 4
This crested variety has a very distinct form with overlapping tassels.

JAPANESE PAINTED FERN

Athyrium nipponicum 'Pictum'
(50 cm) Zone 4
Perennial Plant of The Year 2004.



JAPANESE PAINTED FERN

Impressive contrasting foliage, silvery-grey and wine-red.

KOREAN FERN

Athyrium otophorum
(45 cm) Zone 5
Grey-green with dark red stems and midrib.

APPLECOURT PAINTED FERN

Athyrium nipponicum pictum 'Applecourt'
(30 – 60 cm) Zone 3
Spacing 45 – 60 cm. Heavily crested fronds are silvery grey, with splashes of red on new growth. Part to full shade.

LADY IN RED FERN

Athyrium forma rubellum
(80 – 90 cm) Zone 5
The vibrant burgundy colours running throughout the stipe, makes this one of the most exciting perennial garden ferns. Deciduous.

VICTORIA FANCY LADY FERN

Athyrium filix-femina 'Victoria Fancy'
(60 cm) Zone 5
100 cm wide. Has tall, dark green fancy fronds. Best in part shade and rich soil.

REGAL RED JAPANESE PAINTED FERN

Athyrium niponicum pictum 'Regal Red'

(20-50 cm) Zone 4

Handsome and ruffled, this is our most requested Painted Fern. The dark interior of the frond is contrasted by bright silver edges. The pinnules twist a little, giving the frond a fluffed up look.

BURGUNDY LACE JAPANESE PAINTED FERN

Athyrium nipponicum var. pictum 'Burgundy Lace'

(30 cm)

Spacing 40 cm. Silver fronds, new growth is burgundy. Stunning in the spring. Deciduous. Part to full shade. Keep moderately moist.

GHOST FERN

Athyrium x 'Ghost'

(80 cm) Zone 3

Cross between American Lady and Japanese Painted Fern. Strong growing fern. Silver accent colour.

BRANDFORD BEAUTY LADY FERN

Athyrium X 'Brandford Beauty'

(60 cm) Zone 3

Arching, fountain like form with thin, finely cut, bright green fronds. Best in rich moist soil. Shade.

BLECHNUM

LADDER FERN

Blechnum spicant

(15-70 cm) Zone 5

Hardy little fern with neat compact growth habit. Good under evergreens. Top dress with leaf mould.

CHEILANTHES

The Lip Ferns and Cloak Ferns are adapted to drier sites and are perfect rock garden plants.

Incorporate coarse sand and gravel into rich soil. Good drainage is essential.



HAIRY LIP FERN

SILVER CLOAK FERN

Cheilanthes argentea

(20 cm) Zone 5

Native to Japan, China and Siberia.

Fronds are dark green above and silver below.

CYRTOMIUM

The common name aptly describes their dark green leathery holly-like leaves.

These asiatic ferns are just hardy enough for Southern Ontario and will need an ideal site in which to thrive.

They can be wintered indoors as they are ideal houseplants.

JAPANESE HOLLY FERN

Cyrtomium fortunei

(60 cm) Zone 5

Hardier than the previous species but still demands good care.



JAPANESE
HOLLY FERN

CYSTOPTERIS

These small fragile or brittle ferns are excellent in the rock garden. They are the earliest ferns to appear in the spring.

Bladder fern is a woodland fern.



Cystopteris

BULBLET BLADDER FERN

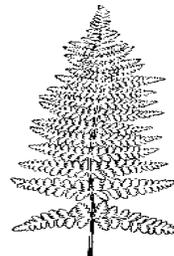
Cystopteris bulbifera

(60 cm) Zone 3

Round pea-like bulblets form on the frond and can fall to grow into a new plant.

DENNSTAEDTIA

A common North American fern with beautiful lacy yellow-green fronds. Naturally spreading in habit it needs room to grow.



HAYSCENTED FERN

HAYSCENTED FERN

Dennstaedtia punctilobula

(60 cm) Zone 3

Once established will tolerate dry conditions even in sun. Fall colour is a soft yellow or bleached to white.



DRYOPTERIS

The British call them Shield or Buckler Ferns. North Americans refer to them as Wood Ferns which is probably preferable since some *Polystichum* are also called Shield Ferns. Many species of *Dryopteris* have great garden merit and some have produced an impressive number of beautiful varieties.

GOLD-SCALED MALE FERN

Dryopteris affinis cristata 'The King'

(60 – 120 cm) Zone 4

Medium to large arching fronds. Deep green foliage. Best in moist soil and part to full shade.

DIXIE WOOD FERN

Dryopteris X australis

(125 – 150 cm) Zone 5

A sturdy semi-evergreen fern bearing handsome dark green fronds that have a slender vase-shaped form when mature. Outstanding in shade gardens and woodland areas. Prefers moist humus-rich soil. Water 2-3 times per week until established, weekly during dry spells. Part to full shade.

TOOTHED WOOD FERN

Dryopteris carthusiana (D. spinulosa)

(90 cm) Zone 2

An easy fern for any soil and useful for damp or wet areas.



LOG FERN

Dryopteris celsa

(100 cm) Zone 5

A native fern of moist woodlands often found growing on rotting logs. Best in moist bright shade.



CHAMPION'S WOOD FERN

Dryopteris championii

(45 – 90 cm) Zone 5

Native to China and Japan, this fern has large lacy evergreen fronds. New fronds are bright apple green, becoming darker with age. Best in part to full shade and moist soil.

SHAGGY SHIELD FERN

Dryopteris cycadina (*D. atrata*)

(75 cm) Zone 5

An asiatic fern with dark evergreen fronds and black hairs on the stalk.

BROAD WOOD FERN

Dryopteris dilatata (*D. austriaca*)

(90 cm) Zone 4

Best in acidic woodland soil. Rich blue-green foliage.

WHITESIDE WOOD FERN

Dryopteris dilatata 'Crispa Whiteside'

(60-90 cm) Zone 4

Light green crisped foliage like curled parsley.

GRANDICEPS WOOD FERN

Dryopteris dilatata 'Grandiceps'

(100 cm) Zone 4

Each leaflet is crested and a very dense tassel terminates the frond.

MALE FERN

Dryopteris filix-mas

(90 cm) Zone 4

A hardy fern that does well in semi-shade. Prefers neutral to acidic soil, humus rich soil. A good 'beginner' fern. An unscientific name, ferns are not separately male and female.

CRISTATE MALE FERN

Dryopteris filix-mas crispa cristata

(45 cm) Zone 4

Spread 45 cm. Compact growth with crisped fronds, ruffled at edges. Likes moist soil, sun or part shade.

CRESTED BUCKLER FERN

Dryopteris dilatata 'Lepidota Cristata'

(45 cm) Zone 4.

A finely dissected, minutely crested form.

RECURVED WOOD FERN

Dryopteris dilatata recurvata

(90 cm) Zone 4.

The individual segments of each leaflet curve downwards.

AUTUMN FERN

Dryopteris erythrosora

(50 cm) Zone 5

New fronds are bronze-red, reminiscent of autumn leaves.

BRILLIANCE AUTUMN FERN

Dryopteris erythrosora 'Brilliance'

(45 cm) Zone 5.

Young fronds are coppery-red and contrast pleasantly with older fronds. Young plantlets grow on mature fronds.

SMALL CRESTED MALE FERN

Dryopteris filix-mas 'Crispa'

(30 cm) Zone 4.

Compact dense fern with crisped fronds ruffled at the edge.

BARNE'S MALE FERN

Dryopteris filix-mas 'Barnesii'

(90 cm) Zone 4.

Always recognized for its distinct ruffled foliage.

MANY FINGERED FERN

Dryopteris filix-mas 'Linearis Polydactyla'

(60-90 cm) Zone 4.

The fronds and the very narrow leaflets are multi-forked.

ROBUST MALE FERN

Dryopteris filix-mas 'Undulata Robusta'

(60-90 cm) Zone 4.

Upright posture with dark blue-green foliage. Drought tolerant even in sun.

GOLDIE'S FERN

Dryopteris goldiana

(90-120 cm) Zone 3

The largest of our native *dryopteris* with quite wide blue-green leaflets. Best in moist shade.

GOLDEN MIST WOOD FERN

Dryopteris labordei

(30-60 cm) Zone 5 – 8

100 cm wide. An Asian fern with golden-yellow new growth maturing to a dark green. Larger and more open than Autumn Fern, this new evergreen fern does well wherever Autumn Fern does well. Sun or partial shade.

MEXICAN MALE FERN

Dryopteris pseudo-felix-mas

(1.2 m) Zone 5

Erect fronds up to 1.2 m can really make a statement. Continues to grow throughout the season so fresh new growth is always evident. Part shade.

LEATHER WOOD FERN



Dryopteris marginalis

(60 cm) Zone 2

Also known as Marginal or Eastern Wood Fern. Evergreen.

RARE WOOD FERN

Dryopteris remota

(75 cm) Zone 4

Eurasian fern that occurs rarely in nature but is now available to gardeners. Strong growing with shaggy stems and delicately cut fronds. Sun or shade.

TOKYO WOOD FERN

Dryopteris tokyoensis

(75 cm) Zone 5

Slender vase-shaped plant with stiffly erect narrow fronds. Native to Japan and Korea.

GYMNOCARPIUM

In the wild, Oak Fern occurs in cool, moist woods. Its creeping habit is not aggressive and it can make a fine ground cover.

OAK FERN

Gymnocarpium dryopteris

(20-45 cm) Zone 2.

Delicate three-parted fronds. A fine plant for Canadian gardens although it resents summer heat.

MATTEUCCIA

Botanists hardly acknowledge a difference between our native species and the one from Europe. Young spring growth of 'fiddle heads' are used as a vegetable.

OSTRICH FERN

Matteuccia pensylvanica

(120 cm) Zone 2.

A tall, erect native species which is vigorous and can be grown in sun if soil is dependably moist. Will colonize.

ONOCLEA

Sensitive Fern is the one species in the genus. Even though extremely hardy, the common name refers to its melting away with the first frosts.

SENSITIVE FERN

Onoclea sensibilis
(30-60 cm) Zone 2
Broadleaved with almost opposite leaflets. Separate fertile fronds called 'beadsticks'. Good by waterside.



OSMUNDA

Members of this group can be very large in natural sites, but do fine in a garden. Sun or shade.



CINNAMON FERN

Osmunda cinnamomea
(60-150 cm) Zone 2
A beautiful vase-shaped fern of great landscape value.



CINNAMON FERN

INTERRUPTED FERN

Osmunda claytonia
(60-150 cm) Zone 2
Strong dark green fern. Showy in groups.



ROYAL FERN

Osmunda regalis.
Zone 2.
Variable in height from 60-150 cm or even taller, but usually around 100 cm.

POLYPODIUM

So called Common Polypody is hardly common nowadays and variant crested types that delighted the Victorians are in fact extremely rare. Delightful small rock garden ferns on acid or limestone.

VIRGINIA POLYPOD

Polypodium virginianum
(30 cm) Zone 2
Growth is slow but it can eventually form large clumps by way of its much branched creeping rhizomes.



VIRGINIA POLYPODY

POLYSTICHUM

Good garden forms of *Polystichum* derive from Europe, Asia and North America. They are mostly all evergreen. All need good drainage, particularly in winter.



CHRISTMAS FERN

Polystichum acrostichoides
(30-60 cm) Zone 3.
Hardy native evergreen fern once popular for Christmas decoration. Adaptable to moist or dry soil in sun or shade.

HARDY SHIELD FERN

Polystichum aculeatum
(90 cm) Zone 4
Impressive as a single specimen plant with glossy dark green fronds

BRAUN'S HOLLY FERN

Polystichum braunii
(60 cm) Zone 3
Forms a crown of dark lustrous leaves. The emerging fiddle heads are covered in silvery scales. A native evergreen fern of moist woods. Shade or sun if soil is moist.



WESTERN SWORD FERN

Polystichum munitum
(60-100 cm) Zone 6.
Does not reach full potential in eastern gardens unless the humidity of coastal B.C. can be duplicated.



TASSEL FERN

Polystichum polyblepharum
(60-120 cm) Zone 6
This native of Japan and Southern Korea is very handsome, does well in rich soil and appreciates consistent moisture.

ALASKAN FERN

Polystichum setiferum 'Angulare'
(60 cm) Zone 5.
A 'Mother Fern' that produces small plantlets along the main stem. These can be detached and grown on.

SOFT SHIELD FERN

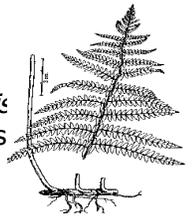
Polystichum setiferum
(45-60 cm) Zone 5
A lovely fern for partial shade in soil that is never dry.

HERRENHAUSEN SHIELD FERN

Polystichum setiferum 'Herrenhausen'
(60 cm)
Spacing 90 cm. Very dense fine cut, with overlapping leaflets. A luxurious fern for partial shade.

THELYPTERIS

Botanists disagree in the inclusion of some ferns in this genus. Some include *Phegopteris* and *Dryopteris* species as being truly a *Thelypteris*. It will depend on which author you read.



MARSH FERN

JAPANESE BEECH FERN

Thelypteris decursive-pinnata (*Phegopteris d. - p.*)
(60 cm) Zone 4
A vigorous fern producing offsets on short runners so it does not spread widely. Associates well with rocks and stone. Not totally evergreen but stays green even after frost.

MARSH FERN

Thelypteris palustris
(90 cm) Zone 2
Blue-green foliage. Unimpressive in its natural habitat it becomes an attractive fern in cultivation.

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