



HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

Ferns

Commonly Native or Worthy of Cultivation



| Common Name <i>Botanical Name</i> | Fronde Length (Inches) | Sun or Shade | Remarks |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| Northern Maidenhair Fern <i>Adiantum pedatum</i> | 12 – 30 | Shade  | Keep well drained but medium moist. |
| Ebony Spleenwort <i>Asplenium platyneuron</i> | 8 – 18 | Shade | Moist, well-drained, humus rich to rocky soil. |
| Maidenhair Spleenwort <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> | 4 – 7 | Shade | Needs moist atmosphere. Evergreen. Plant shallow.  |
| Lady Fern <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> | 12 – 24 | Sun or shade | Yellow-green leaves. Stems pinkish in spring. |
| Japanese Painted Fern <i>Athyrium niponicum</i> 'Pictum' | 20 – 40 | Shade | Showy with silvery gray fronds. |
| Eared Lady Fern <i>Athyrium thelypteroides</i> | 12 – 18 | Shade | Young leaves chartreuse. Moist soil. |
| Silvery Glade Fern <i>Athyrium thelypteroides</i> | 18 – 48 | Shade/semi-shade | Dimorphic. Neutral to acidic soil. |
| Fragile Fern <i>Cystopteris fragilis</i> | 5 – 16 | Shade | Plants become dormant when soil is dry. Appreciates some lime. |
| Hay-scented Fern <i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i> | 15 - 30 | Sun | May be too aggressive. |
| Narrow-leaved Spleenwort <i>Diplazium pycnocarpon</i> (Syn. <i>Athyrium pycnocarpon</i>) | 24 – 36 | Shade | Use good soil for good growth. |
| Northern Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> | 16 – 30 | Shade | Evergreen. Neutral to acidic moist soil. Variable species. |
| Male Fern <i>Dryopteris expansa</i> | 24 – 48 | Shade or sun | Large plants for accent or a woodland setting. |
| Goldie's Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris goldiana</i> | 36 – 48 | Shade | Vertical accent. Humus rich soil. |

A-2-25 LB(MG) revised MD(MG)
reviewed RT 1/03

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Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

| Common Name <i>Botanical Name</i> | Frond Length (Inches) | Sun or Shade | Remarks |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Leather Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> | 18 – 30 | Shade | Evergreen. In planting, do not bury the rootstock. |
| Toothed Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i> | 12 – 36 | Shade | Lacy fronds. Commonly used by florists. |
| Oak Fern <i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i> | 9 – 12 | Shade | Moist, humus rich acidic soil. Use with spring flowering bulbs. |
| Ostrich Fern <i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> | 24 - 72 | Shade | Do not plant deeply. Prefers steady moisture. |
| Sensitive Fern <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> | 12 – 36 | Sun or shade | Spreads rapidly. Does well in sun if kept moist. |
| Cinnamon Fern <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> | 30 - 60 | Shade or partial shade | Has black exposed rootstock. Likes moist, acidic soils. |
| Interrupted Fern <i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> | 24 – 48 | Sun or shade | Easily cultivated. Moist acidic soils. |
| Royal Fern <i>Osmunda regalis</i> | 24 – 72 | Partial shade | Do not plant deeply.  |
| Purple Cliff Brake <i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i> | 8 – 20 | Sun or shade | Rare. Plant shallow. Rock garden. Appreciates some lime. |
| Common Polypody <i>Polypodium vulgare</i> | 3 – 10 | Sun or shade | Forms dense mats on cliffs. |
| Christmas Fern <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> | 12 –24 | Sun or shade | Evergreen. Common. Easy to grow. |
| Braun's Holly Fern <i>Polystichum braunii</i> | 10 –28 | Shade | Semi-evergreen.  |
| Soft Shield Fern <i>Polystichum setiferum</i> | 18 – 48 | Shade | Evergreen. Best in slightly moist, acid to neutral soil. |
| Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> | 18 – 24 | Sun or shade | Often becomes weed. Plant deeply. Sandy, well-drained acid soil. |
| New York Fern <i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i> | 12 – 24 | Shade | Creeping. Very strong grower. |
| Blunt-lobed Woodsia <i>Woodsia obtusa</i> | 5 – 16 | Shade | Plant in front of other ferns. Easily grown in mixed garden or rock garden. |
| Netted Chain Fern <i>Woodwardia areolata</i> | 12 – 24 | Shade | Rare. Prefers moist conditions. |
| Virginia Chain Fern <i>Woodwardia virginica</i> | 18 - 24 | Shade | Likes very moist areas, as near a stream or pond. |

Reference: "Ferns for American Gardens" by John Mickel, NY Botanical Garden, 1994.