

Ferns

Ferns are an indispensable asset to the shade gardener. They can be used as a groundcover or planted in beds along with Hosta, Astilbe, Primula, Azalea and other shade-tolerant plants. Ferns look beautiful when planted in a naturalized setting with rocks, boulders, logs and stumps. Most varieties prefer part sun to shade and moist soil rich in organic material, but there are varieties that will tolerate full sun and dryer conditions. The following assortment of ferns varies in heights, textures and growing requirements. You are sure to find a few to suit your garden's particular needs.

ADIANTUM PEDATUM

ZONE: 3



Maidenhair Fern

Delicate airy fan-shaped fronds change from light green to gold in fall. Very hardy. Native to Eastern United States.

HEIGHT: 2'

ASPLENIUM TRICHOMANES

ZONE: 3



Spleenwort

Dainty and tidy fern with 4-10" arching dark green fronds. Very hardy.

HEIGHT: 10"

ATHYRIUM

ZONE:



Ghost Fern

'Ghost'

Silvery white fronds give the fern its name. Excellent choice for brightening up a shady spot.

HEIGHT:

'Godzilla'

Robust fern that towers over other Painted Ferns. Forms massive clump of silvery fronds with purple stems.

HEIGHT: 3'

ATHYRIUM FELIX-FEMINA

ZONE: 4




Tatting Fern

'Frizelliae'

Narrow delicate fronds 12-18" long.

HEIGHT: 18"

ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA

ZONE: 4 


Lady Fern

'Victoriae'

This unique crested Lady Fern has criss-crossing leaflets along the entire length of each frond. The crested tips continue to lengthen all season, looking more like fringe with each passing week forms an upright arching clump.

HEIGHT: 18-24"

ATHYRIUM NIPONICUM

ZONE: 3 


Japanese Painted Fern

'Pictum'

Silvery-grey fronds are dusty purple towards the center. Purplish-red veins and stems. Low, mounding habit. Spreads by rhizomes.

HEIGHT: 12-18"

CYRTOMIUM FORTUNEI

ZONE: 5 


Holly Fern

'Clivicola'

A hardy Holly Fern with erect fronds of grey-green color. An easy fast grower.

HEIGHT: 1-2'

DENNSTAEDTIA PUNCTILOBULA


ZONE: 3 

Hay-Scented Fern

Fronds are lance shaped and very lacy. Forms large clumps and is very adaptable for garden use. Tolerates wide range of soil types and light requirements.

HEIGHT: 15-30"

DRYOPTERIS ERYTHROSORA

ZONE: 5 


Autumn Fern

'Brilliance'

A new colorful and more brilliant form of the Autumn Fern. The young fronds of this cultivar are lustrous and orange. Even the fronds at maturity, though green, hold their orange color and retain the glossy sheen.


HEIGHT: 18-24"

DRYOPTERIS FILIX-MAS

ZONE: 3 

Male Fern

DRYOPTERIS FILIX-MAS


ZONE: 3 

Male Fern

Light green fronds adds light to deep shade with it's foliage color. Can tolerate sun if soil is kept moist. Very hardy.

HEIGHT: 24" - 48"

DRYOPTERIS LINEARIS

ZONE: 5 


Many Fingered Male Fern

'Polydactyla'

Lacey foliage reaching 2-3'.

HEIGHT: 2-3'

DRYOPTERIS MARGINALIS


ZONE: 3 

Leatherwood Fern

Vigorous growing fern with dark blue-green sturdy fronds, more drought tolerant than others. Easy to grow and most often used in bouquets.

HEIGHT: 24-30"

MATTEUCCIA STRUTHIOPTERIS

ZONE: 2 

Ostrich Fern

Moisture is very important. Fronds will scorch if soil becomes too dry. Will spread quickly with optimum conditions. Plants will reach 6' only in swampy areas.


HEIGHT: 2-4'

'The King'

The "king" of all ostrich ferns! Can reach an amazing 6' with adequately moist soil conditions.

HEIGHT: 4-6'

OSMUNDA REGALIS

ZONE: 2 


Royal Fern

'Spectabilis'

Frond tips are heavily crested. Forms large dense clumps. Likes moist to wet locations with acidic soil. Native to United States.

HEIGHT: 3' - 5'

POLYSTICHUM ACRISTICHOIDES

ZONE: 3 

Christmas Fern

POLYSTICHUM ACRISTICHOIDES

ZONE: 3



Christmas Fern

Rich green, evergreen fronds are silvery when young. Used as cut green in flower arrangements. Suitable for moist woodland setting. Very hardy.

HEIGHT: 12" - 24"

POLYSTICHUM SETIFERUM

ZONE: 5



Soft Shield Fern

'Herrenhausen'

Densely filled parsley-like fronds of bright light green

HEIGHT: 12"

'Plumoso-multilobum'

14" tall x 18" wide clump, composed of very finely divided fronds resulting in a very lacy appearance. This has been one of only a few *Polystichum setiferum* cultivars to thrive in a hot, humid climate.

HEIGHT: 14"