

The ferns listed in this brochure are both easy-to-grow and generally considered deer *resistant*. No plant is *deer-proof*.

Scientific names follow Arthur Haines, Flora Novae Angliae, 2011

NATIVE PLANTS

- Native plants give a sense of place in harmony with the natural character of the countryside.
- In addition to beauty and harmony, native plants can offer conservation benefits, even in a small backyard.

FERNS

- *Ferns provide cover to protect wildlife such as small mammals, small birds and frogs from predatory birds*
- *On hot days, ferns offer small wildlife a cool resting spot*
- *Some birds line their nests with material from Cinnamon Ferns*
- *Ferns spread readily via rhizomes (underground stems)*
- *Fern rhizomes hold soil strongly in place, retarding erosion*
- *Ferns provide texture and color interest in both formal and natural gardens*
- *Many ferns can be propagated by division*

All the species listed in this brochure are available in the nursery trade. However, some are more readily available than others.

Please resist the temptation to dig up ferns from natural areas.

Easy-to-Grow, Deer-Resistant Connecticut Native Ferns for Habitat Restoration and Garden Beauty



EASY-TO-GROW, DEER-RESISTANT, CONNECTICUT NATIVE FERNS for Habitat Restoration and Garden Beauty

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	LIGHT			MOISTURE				SOIL CHARACTERISTICS								SIZE		FORM				NATIVE HABITATS	
		Sun	Part Sun/ Light Shade	Shade	Dry	Somewhat dry	Moist	Wet	Tolerates Summer Dryness	Prefers/Needs Constant Moisture	Prefers/Needs Well-drained Soil	Typical of Rich sites	High Calcium Substrates	Somewhat Alkaline Soil	Neutral pH	Slightly Acid Soil	Acidic Soil	Strongly Acid Soil	Height (inches)	Width (inches)	Symmetric or Asymmetric Clumping	Wandering		Aggressive
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Northern Maidenhair Fern	x	sh			M			P		R	X	X	X				12-24	24		W			Rich, moist woodlands in circumneutral soils
<i>Athyrium angustum</i>	Northern Lady Fern	x	sh			M												20-30	24	A			Moist woods, swamp margins; meadows, stream banks, open areas	
<i>Athyrium asplenoides</i>	Southern Lady Fern	x	sh			M												20-30	24	A			Moist to wet woods, swamp margins; also thickets	
<i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i>	Bulbil Fragile Fern	x	sh			M				x	X	X						12-24	12-24	A			Calcareous areas W. of the CT River; on thin soil, wet ledges, slopes	
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Fragile Fern	x	sh			M				x	R		R					3-8	6-12	A			Rich open woods, rocky slopes	
<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Eastern Hay-scented Fern	x	sh	X		M		Y							X	X		16-24	36-48		W	xx	Forest, field, rocky slopes, damp shore; often sterile soil; WEEDY	
<i>Deparia acrostichoides</i>	Silvery False Spleenwort		sh			M		N			R		X	X				18-30	24-36	A			Rich woods, moist shady banks	
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal Wood Fern	x	sh		X	M												16-24	18-24	S		+	Rocky hillsides in rich woods; shady, rocky Oak forest slopes	
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> ssp. <i>pennsylvanica</i>	Ostrich Fern, Fiddlehead Fern	su	x	sh		M	W	Y	N		+	X	X	X				24-48	36-72	S	W		Rich, moist habitats	
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	su	x	sh		M	W						X	X				10-24	24-36		W		Wet places in woods, meadows, openings, swamp margins	
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern	su	x	sh		M	W	Y					X	X				24-48	36-48	S	w		Open moist/wet woods, thickets, swamp margins, damp rocky woods	
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> var. <i>spectabilis</i>	Royal Fern	su	x			M	W								X			24-48	24-36	S			Swamps, wet woods, shores, shallow water	
<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	Cinnamon Fern	su	x	sh		M	W							X				24-60	24-48	S			Moist to wet forests, swamps, shorelines, and other moist places	
<i>Parathelypteris novboracensis</i>	New York Fern		x	sh		X	M	W										16-30	24-36		W		Dry to damp woods/thickets; moist Oak or Sugar Maple-Ash forests	
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Long Beech Fern			sh		M												8-22	24-36		W		Shaded forest, streambanks, ravines, cliff bases, cool rocky banks	
<i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i>	Broad Beech Fern			sh		M												12-26	36		W		Mesic forests, swamp borders, thickets	
<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>	Rock Polypody			sh				Y							X			3-10	8-16		W	+	On thin soil of rocks, banks, tree bases, and rocky slopes	
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern			sh	X	M												8-16	14-24	A		+	Rocky hillsides in moist woods, open thickets	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken Fern	su	x	sh	X	X	M	Y										12-60	36-120		W	xx	Fields, roadsides, thickets, open woods, woodlands, dry sterile woods	
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	Marsh Fern	su	x	sh		M	W											12-36	24-36		W		Marsh, swamp, peatland, shorelines, bog margins, sterile meadows	
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	Netted Chain Fern		x	sh		X	M	W	Y					X				12-28	24-36		W	+	Acid bogs, swampy woods, low fields	
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	Virginia Chain Fern		x	sh		M	W	Y						X				24-36	36-48		W		Acid soils of swamps, marshes, bogs, ditches, moist/wet woods	



NOTES:

- Tolerances for soil moisture refer to adult individuals. Attention to maintaining good soil moisture in the first year often is required to get plants established.
- Generally, where ferns have a wide range of suitable light conditions, ferns growing in full sun will require the wettest soils within their moisture range.
- In garden conditions, ferns do better when the soil is well drained (though not so well drained that it is droughty).

