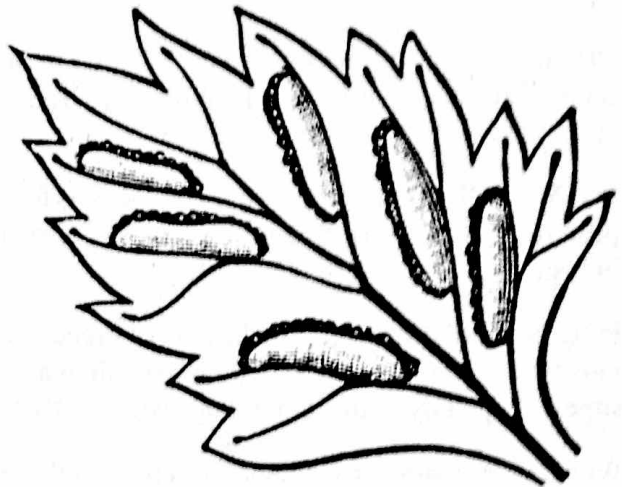


## FERN GENUS CHARACTERISTICS - A QUICK REFERENCE

Noting the name, meaning, number and distribution of species and a brief description.

**ADIANTUM** - maidenhair - Greek - to shed water - 200 species, mostly tropical - worldwide - stipe brittle frequently black or red-black; fronds lacking a distinct midrib; foliage delicate, lacy, often drooping; thin textured; pinna fan or wedge shaped; sori around the outer edges covered with a false indusium of curled segments; evergreen and deciduous.



**ARACHNIODES** - spider like - 40 species - mostly temperate - evergreen - closely related to *Polystichum* and *Dryopteris* - stipes greenish or straw colored; rhizome frequently spreading; evergreen; tall foliage usually spiny; sori central; indusium kidney shaped.

**ASPENIUM** - without spleen referring to a reputation for curing disorders of the spleen - 700 species - many hybrids - worldwide - usually evergreen; small with dark stipes; foliage varied - bird's nest fern to *A. trichomanes*; stipes short; sori in herringbone pattern; indusium attached to a vein opening on one side (clamshell fashion).

**ATHYRIUM** - to sport - 180 species - temperate and tropical; deciduous; stipes usually stout and succulent; green or straw colored and long; fronds long thin textured; sori central with half moon shaped indusium opening along one side.

**BLECHNUM** - Greek name for a type of fern - 220 species - temperate and tropical; evergreen and sub-evergreen leathery and dimorphic (fertile and sterile fronds different); fertile fronds erect; sori linear occupying entire space from midrib to out edge of fertile frond segment; indusium linear with central lengthwise opening (slit down the middle)!

**CHEILANTHES** - lip fern - 150 species - temperate, tropical and arid - stipes short, brittle, dense in growth; tufted; often scaly or hirsute; foliage evergreen also hairy or with scales on the underside; pinnae beadlike; prefers dry rocky locations; will curl in drought revive with moisture; sori marginal covered with reflexed edge of pinna but not continuous around the edge.

**CRYPTOGRAMMA** - hidden sori - 11 species - mostly temperate; small evergreens with light colored stipe; rock loving; dimorphic with fertile fronds erect; sori under overlapping margins.

**DRYOPTERIS** - wood fern - 250 species (my original research indicated 1213 species - the botanical splitters have been at work) - worldwide; evergreen and deciduous, small to very large; sturdy; usually divided - often finely so; hybridizes frequently; sori central with kidney shaped indusium.

**GYMNOCARPIUM** - naked fruit - no indusium - few species - temperate; stiff brittle stipe; horizontal triangular fronds; deciduous; thin texture; spreading via underground rhizomes; sori round.

**LYGODIUM** - twining - 39 species - mostly tropical; climbing ferns; sterile portion evergreen; fertile portion a continuation of the main stem & deciduous; sori on underside of fertile segments.

**MATTEUCCIA** - named for an Italian physicist; 3 species - temperate; very large deciduous plummy fronds; dimorphic with sterile fronds to 5'; fertile fronds to 2' with sori in hard brown pods.

**NOTHOLAENA** - cloak fern - false indusium - 25 species - closely allied with *Cheilanthes* and *Pellaea* - mostly arid loving small ferns with proportionately long stipes; erect inhabitants of rocky dry places; foliage frequently with hairs, scales or waxy undercoating; sori hidden in wax, scales or around edges.

**OSMUNDA** - Osmund - Thor - Scandinavian god of war - 10 species - mostly temperate; large deciduous primitive ferns; moisture loving; spore not on underside of leaf but on separate stalks from rachis (flowering fern)

## Easy to Grow Indoor Ferns:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Bird's Nest Fern
<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	Japanese Holly Fern
<i>Polypodium aureum</i>	Rabbit's-foot Fern
<i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i>	Boston ferns
<i>Davallia fejeensis</i> cv. 'Plumosa'	Plume Fern
<i>Polypodium polycarpon</i> cv. 'Grandiceps'	Crested Polypody
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>	New Zealand Button-fern
<i>Platycerium</i> species	Staghorn ferns
<i>Polystichum tsus-simense</i>	Tsus-sima Holly-fern
<i>Pteris cretica</i> species	Stove ferns
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	New Zealand Mother-fern
<i>Pellaea viridis</i>	False Holly-fern
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>	Rosy Maidenhair Fern
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Southern Maidenhair Fern

## Northwest Native Ferns:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<u><i>Adiantum aleuticum</i></u>	Maidenhair fern
<u><i>Athyrium filix-femina</i></u>	Lady Fern
<u><i>Athyrium alpestre</i></u>	American Alpine Lady Fern
<u><i>Blechnum spicant</i></u>	Deer Fern
<u><i>Cryptogramma acrostichoides</i></u>	American Parsley Fern, Rock-brake
<u><i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i></u>	Oak Fern
<u><i>Polypodium amorphum</i></u>	Irregular Polypody
<u><i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i></u>	Licorice Fern
<u><i>Polystichum lemmonii</i></u>	Shasta Fern
<u><i>Polystichum munitum</i></u>	Western Sword Fern

## FERN SOURCES:

### Books-

Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns  
by Sue Olsen

Gardening with Ferns  
by Martin Rickard

A Natural History of Ferns  
By Robbin C. Moran

Ferns: A Comprehensive Guide to  
Growing Ferns for the Home Gardener  
by Gillean Dunk

Ferns to Know and Grow  
By F. Gordon Foster

The Victorian Fern Craze  
By Sarah Whittingham

### Local Public Gardens-

Bellevue Botanical Garden  
[bellevuebotanical.org](http://bellevuebotanical.org)

University of Washington Botanic  
Garden (Arboretum and CUH)  
[depts.washington.edu/uwbg/](http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/)

Rhododendron Species Botanical  
Garden, Federal Way, WA  
[rhodygarden.org](http://rhodygarden.org)

### Nurseries for buying ferns-

City Peoples Nursery, Seattle  
[Citypeoples.com](http://Citypeoples.com)

Wells Medina Nursery, Medina, WA  
[wellsmedinanursery.com](http://wellsmedinanursery.com)

Swansons Nursery, Seattle WA  
[swansonsnursery.com](http://swansonsnursery.com)

Fancy Fronds Nursery, Gold Bar, WA  
[fancyfrondsnursery.com](http://fancyfrondsnursery.com)

Sundquist Nursery, Poulsbo, WA  
[sqnursery.com](http://sqnursery.com)

### Online information sources-

The Hardy Fern Foundation (local)  
[hardyferns.org](http://hardyferns.org)

The American Fern Society  
(international)  
[amerfernsoc.org](http://amerfernsoc.org)

