



Favorite Ferns for NC Gardens

Create a native garden in your yard, and help sustain our native plant and pollinator populations. Do your homework to make sure you choose native plants suited to your site conditions. With proper planting and care, these perennials will become established in your yard.

The native ferns below are all perennials and should return each year if planted properly. They all are available commercially. If your local nursery does not sell these native plants, encourage them to do so!

**North Carolina
Native Plant Society**

For information about the North Carolina Native Plant Society and to find a local chapter, visit: www.NCNPS.org or email: secretary@ncwildflower.org

Common Name	Scientific Name	Region	Comment	Soil	Features
Southern Maidenhair	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	P/C	Delicate, fills in well with wildflowers	Average	Spreads slowly
Northern Maidenhair	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	M/P	Delicate, with distinctive horse-shoe shaped frond	Average	Spreads slowly
Southern Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium asplenoides</i>	M/P/C	Easy to grow, some have red stipes	Average	Clumps
Hairy Lip Fern	<i>Myriopteris lanosa</i> [= <i>Cheilanthes lanosa</i>]	M/P/C	Some sun and dryish soil	Dryish	Spreads slowly
Silvery Spleenwort	<i>Deparia acrostichoides</i>	M/P	Drought and sun tolerant	Average	Clumps
Southern Shieldfern	<i>Dryopteris australis</i>	M/P/C	Semi-evergreen, large to 4 ft. tall, vigorous growth	Average-moist	Clumps
Log Fern	<i>Dryopteris celsa</i>	M/P/C	Semi-evergreen, large best in moist soil	Average-moist	Clumps
Fancy Fern	<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>	M/P	Evergreen, formal growth with most delicate frond	Average	Clumps
Southern Woodfern	<i>Dryopteris ludoviciana</i>	P/C	Shiny evergreen frond, likes moist soil	Moist	Clumps
Marginal Woodfern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	M/P	Evergreen, formal growth form	Average-dryish	Clumps
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	M/P/C	Distinctive fronds, sterile and fertile; spreads vigorously	Average-moist-wet	Spreads
Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	M/P/C	Robust, large to 4 ft.	Moist	Clumps
Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda spectabilis</i>	M/P/C	Large to 4 ft., handsome	Moist	Clumps
Broad Beech Fern	<i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i>	M/P	Triangular frond, handsome, spreads vigorously	Average	Spreads
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	M/P/C	Best all-around, evergreen, drought tolerant	Average	Clumps
New York Fern	<i>Parathelypteris noveboracensis</i>	M/P/C	Delicate, brittle fronds, spreads rapidly	Average	Spreads
Netted Chain Fern	<i>Lorinseria areolata</i> [= <i>Woodwardia areolata</i>]	M/P/C	Colorful new fronds, interesting fertile fronds	Moist-wet	Spreads

All ferns require part sun to shade M = Mountains P = Piedmont C = Coast