

**GRASSES + FERNS:** Ornamental grasses move pleasantly in the wind, catching the light. They soften, yet enhance garden elements with their airy form, offering unique colors ranging from browns, tans and purples. Perennial grasses add winter interest to any garden design, and are tolerant of a wide range of soils and moisture levels. Ferns are a highly useful plant for shaded woodland gardens, and they are tolerant of acidic soils and wet areas.

## Section - 3

Big Bluestem



Broom Sedge



Side Oats Gamma



# Grasses + Ferns

## Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun

**Soil Requirements:** Dry to wet soils, tolerates salinity

**Natural Habitat:** Low meadows and open fields, grasslands

**Mature Height:** 4-6 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Attracts birds and butterflies

**Garden Use:** Big Bluestem grows in an upright clump and spreads easily once established, so is best used in a naturalized setting such as a rain garden or for erosion control. In winter it offers a nice yellow-rust color against the white snow.



## Broom Sedge (*Andropogon virginicus*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist to dry soils

**Natural Habitat:** Dry fields, thin woodlands and upland meadows

**Mature Height:** 2-5 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Attracts birds and butterflies

**Garden Use:** Broom Sedge is an attractive clump grass that turns bright yellow in autumn. It can be used in a residential garden to add vertical height and a soft texture. It works best if planted in masses or grouped together.



## Side Oats Gamma (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Well drained soils

**Natural Habitat:** Prairies, open woodlands, forest openings

**Mature Height:** 1-3 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Attracts birds and butterflies

**Garden Use:** Side Oats Gamma is best used in masses and as a foreground plant with a large boulder or dark evergreen in the background. In winter, this plant turns bright yellow in the fall and offers a nice contrast against snow or evergreens.



## Section - 3

Blue Joint Grass



Pennsylvania Sedge



Inland Sea Oats



## Grasses + Ferns

### Blue Joint Grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist to wet soils

**Natural Habitat:** Marshes, open woodlands

**Mature Height:** 3-5 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Attracts birds

**Garden Use:** A clump forming grass well suited for a rain garden, and a favored grass for winter color and interest. This is a durable plant, often used for habitat restoration projects. It has a purplish look when flowering in mid summer, and holds its form well in wintertime.



### Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Dry to moist soils

**Natural Habitat:** Dry to moist woodlands

**Mature Height:** 6-12 inches

**Wildlife Value:** Attracts birds

**Garden Use:** Pennsylvania Sedge can be used as a groundcover when planted closely together. It is a low growth clumped grass and in the autumn months will turn into a golden-rust color. Can be used in shade and will tolerate wet areas.



### Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist, sand, loam or clay

**Natural Habitat:** Shaded slopes, stream banks, thickets

**Mature Height:** 3-5 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Attracts birds, pollinating bees and small animals

**Garden Use:** An attractive clump forming grass that provides texture and contrast almost year round. Has graceful large seed pods which work well in dried flower arrangements. A good plant that can tolerate clay soils and wet areas.



## Section - 3

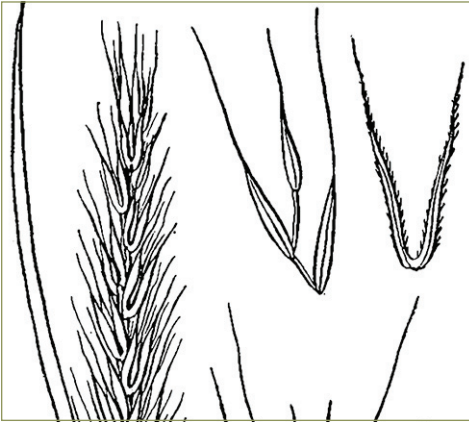
Canada Wild Rye



Bottlebrush Grass



Virginia Wild Rye



# Grasses + Ferns

## Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist, well-drained soils, tolerates acidic soil



**Natural Habitat:** Grasslands, open woodlands

**Mature Height:** 2-4 feet



**Wildlife Value:** Attracts butterflies



**Garden Use:** Canada Wild Rye is a clump forming grass that establishes easily, providing quick initial cover. It is a hardy and versatile plant, and does well in dry sunny conditions. In autumn, the whiskery-like seedlings become evident and add a nice texture to the garden, continuing through the winter.

## Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Dry to moist soils



**Natural Habitat:** Woodlands, woodland edge

**Mature Height:** 1-3 feet



**Wildlife Value:** Attracts butterflies



**Garden Use:** A clump forming grass that adapts to a wide range of soil conditions. Tolerant of urban pollution and effective for erosion control. Unique bristly flower heads appear mid summer and last through fall.

## Virginia Wild Rye (*Elymus virginicus*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist heavy soils, tolerates clay



**Natural Habitat:** Fence rows, shaded stream banks, open woodlands

**Mature Height:** 1-3 feet



**Wildlife Value:** Attracts butterflies and birds



**Garden Use:** It has tall-flat grass blades with a unique seed structure. Green to silvery blue foliage. Excellent slope stabilizer, or used in masses for a naturalized landscape.





## Section - 3

Switchgrass



Little Bluestem



Indian Grass



# Grasses + Ferns

## Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Dry to moist soils

**Natural Habitat:** Bluffs, stream banks, open woodlands

**Mature Height:** 3-6 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Attracts birds and butterflies

**Garden Use:** Switchgrass grows in large clumps. It has bright green stems all summer long, and turns bright yellow in autumn. A nice choice for winter interest, accent plantings, raingardens and difficult sites such as along a road or where snow will be piled.



## Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Dry, well drained soils, can handle clay soils, but not wet areas

**Natural Habitat:** Woodland edge, hillsides, and meadows

**Mature Height:** 2-4 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Attracts birds and butterflies

**Garden Use:** Little Bluestem looks great when planted in masses, mixed in with rocks and flowering perennials. Has a dense mounding form. It can take over in small gardens over time. This grass has a blue-green stem color in the summer, and bronze/orange fall color.



## Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

**Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Requirements:** Dry to moist soil

**Natural Habitat:** Prairies, open woodlands, fields

**Mature Height:** 3-6 feet

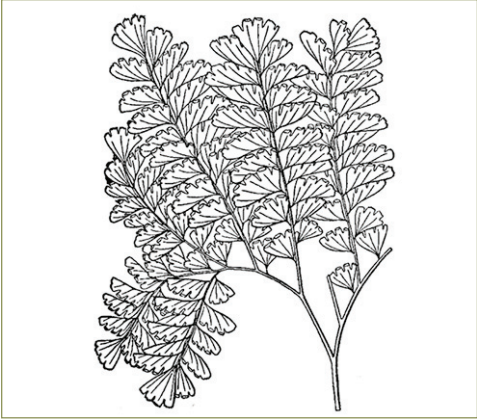
**Wildlife Value:** Attracts butterflies

**Garden Use:** Indian Grass stays low for most of the year, and then grows tall before blooming in autumn. Looks best when planted in masses or as part of a perennial/wildflower mixture. Tolerant of poor soil conditions, such as clay or infertile soil.

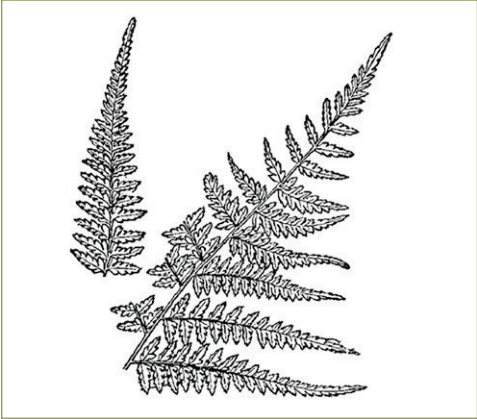


## Section - 3

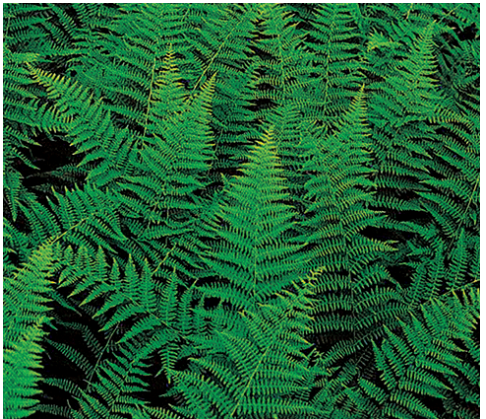
### Maidenhair Fern



### Lady Fern



### Hay Scented Fern



# Grasses + Ferns

## Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist, well-drained soils, does not tolerate clay



**Natural Habitat:** Shaded woodlands, low-land meadows

**Mature Height:** 8-20 inches

**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife



**Garden Use:** In favorable conditions it will spread forming a lovely groundcover. Best used in a woodland or rockgarden, forms a nice dense border. Delicate fronds offer a light airy texture.

## Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist, wet soils



**Natural Habitat:** Forest, woodland, wet meadows, lake shores

**Mature Height:** 2-3 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife



**Garden Use:** Lady Fern is a large, clustered fern that stands out in the landscape. It has delicate lacy fronds with dark red stems. It is easy to grow and dependable. Will tolerate sun if kept moist. Use in a woodland garden or shade garden border.

## Hay Scented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist, well drained soils



**Natural Habitat:** Rocky woodlands, stream banks, shaded woodlands

**Mature Height:** 1-3 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife



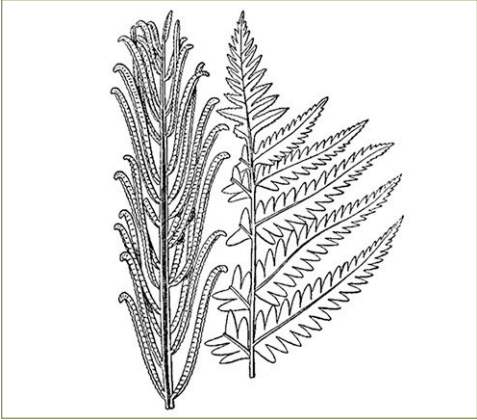
**Garden Use:** Hay Scented Fern gets its name from the sweet scent of freshly mowed hay when it is crushed and rubbed between your fingers. This fern can be planted along a garden edge as it can provide a soft buffer between lawn and garden.

# Section - 3

## Marginal Shield Fern



## Ostrich Fern



## Cinnamon Fern



## Grasses + Ferns

### Marginal Sheild Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist soils

**Natural Habitat:** Low-land woodlands, ravines

**Mature Height:** 1-3 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife

**Garden Use:** Marginal Sheild Fern thrives in rocky gardens, and shady woodlands. It survives through winter making it good choice for a winter garden. Requires moist rich soils.



### Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Cool, wet, sandy soils

**Natural Habitat:** Swamps, low-land woodlands

**Mature Height:** 2-6 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife

**Garden Use:** Works well when mixed with other shade loving perennials that appear in early spring. Use in a rain garden, along a streambank or pond. Adds a tropical feel with it's large arching fronds. Can become aggressive in favorable conditions.



### Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist soils

**Natural Habitat:** Meadows, bogs

**Mature Height:** 1-3 feet

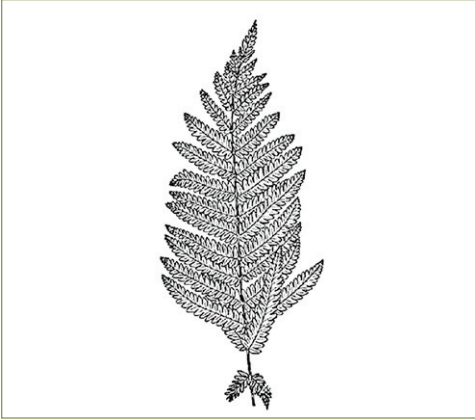
**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife

**Garden Use:** Best for wet areas or a rain garden. Has dramatic architectural form and color. The fertile fronds are brown and contrast with the green. Use in a mass planting or shade garden border.

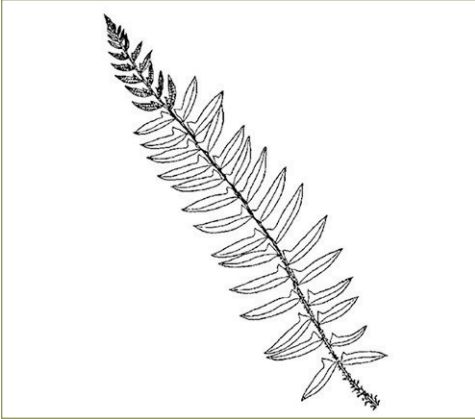


## Section - 3

### Interrupted Fern



### Christmas Fern



### New York Fern



# Grasses + Ferns

## Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist to dry, acidic soils

**Natural Habitat:** Woodland ravines

**Mature Height:** 3-6 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife

**Garden Use:** Interrupted Fern is best used in heavily shaded areas, along streambanks and ponds. It flourishes in acidic soils, and can survive under evergreens and in full shade.



## Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist, well-drained soils

**Natural Habitat:** Rocky woodlands, stream banks, swamps

**Mature Height:** 1-3 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife

**Garden Use:** Christmas Fern does not tolerate clay soils or standing water, it must have good drainage and ample shade, however it is the most drought tolerant of all the ferns. Has lustrous evergreen leaves which last all winter. Plant with perennials that flower in spring; the contrast will be striking.



## New York Fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)

**Sun Requirements:** Part shade to full shade

**Soil Requirements:** Moist, well-drained soils

**Natural Habitat:** Open woodlands

**Mature Height:** 1-2 feet

**Wildlife Value:** Offers shelter for small wildlife

**Garden Use:** New York Fern has a soft delicate texture, effective as a groundcover as it fills gaps between other plants and forms dense colonies. It will survive in drier conditions but prefers moist rich soil.

