



Adiantum pedatum



Arachniodes standishii



Asplenium scolopendrium



Atyrium filix-femina
'Minutissimum'



Atyrium filix-femina var. *angustum*
'Lady in Red'



Atyrium niponicum
'Pewter Lace'



Dennstaedtia punctilobula



Deparia acrostichoides



Dryopteris xaustralis



Dryopteris championii



Dryopteris erythrosora 'Brilliance'

Hardy Ferns

Bob Lyons

Ferns may be one of the few groups of plants that enjoy a reputation full of contradictions.

For shade only...not really. Delicate and fragile...not all. Never evergreen...wrong. They will only thrive in rich, organic soils...not true either! One thing is certain however, true ferns do not produce flowers but that doesn't make them any less garden worthy. Ferns are widely used to contribute texture in the garden, whether from the fine textured fronds of the maidenhair fern or from the bolder appearance of the Christmas fern. That ferns are deer resistant makes them desirable.

Individually and collectively, fern fronds account for most of the plants' overall aesthetics. Depending upon the species or cultivar, their foliage color can range anywhere from shades of green, chartreuse, pale yellow, silvery and reddish tones, to the irregular patterns seen on others. Fern growth habits differ little from conventional perennials; meaning there are those that spread (some aggressively) and others that maintain neat clumps over time. As for propagation, asexual methods are fairly easy. In fact, division may be the most popular method. First, wait until fall when the plant is going dormant and outside temperatures are cooler. Then, as for many perennials, dig and cut the clump into halves or more; for spreaders, simply dig and cut out appropriately sized root masses. In both cases, cut back the foliage, even if it would otherwise remain evergreen, and thoroughly water.

The Plant Sale has pulled together a wide variety of hardy ferns, many of which are native to North America. Here are a few highlights. The Maidenhair Fern is a beloved native with inky black stems and scalloped, paper-thin foliage. While it may look delicate, it is a tough, clumping survivor. The Japanese Painted Fern, also a clumper, has bolder fronds with reddish stems and brush marks of silver. It thrives in shade to semi-shady locations and should never be allowed to wilt. To round out this trio, the clumping native evergreen Christmas Fern comes highly recommended and may be one of the most ubiquitous ferns in our northeastern woods. It is vase-shaped in habit and grows to about 1-2 feet tall. While it will usually occur in shady woods, it is tough enough to thrive in mostly sunny areas too. Below are more enchanting ferns to enliven your garden.

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size	Price
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern	1-1.5	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Delicate but tough; wiry black stems; finely textured; deciduous; edible pink fiddleheads. N						
<i>Arachniodes standishii</i>	Upside Fern	1-1.5	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Semi-evergreen; spectacular groundcover gem over time; Japanese temple plant.						
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's Tongue Fern	1-2	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Rhizomatous, evergreen; tongue-shaped leathery fronds with wavy margins.						



Dryopteris goldiana



Dryopteris marginalis



Dryopteris tokyoensis



Matteucia struthiopteris



Osmunda cinnamomea

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size	Price
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<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> 'Minutissimum'	Dwarf Lady Fern	1	●●☁		qt	\$9
Dwarf; finely divided light green fronds; deciduous; perfect for small gardens. N						
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> var. <i>angustum</i>	'Lady in Red'	2-3	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Lady Fern Light green fronds, bright red midrib; upright habit; deciduous. N						
<i>Athyrium niponicum</i> var. <i>pictum</i>	'Pewter Lace'	1-1.5	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Japanese Painted Fern Pewter-metallic overlay on fronds, burgundy midrib; tough deciduous fern.						
<i>Athyrium niponicum</i> var. <i>pictum</i>	'Regal Red'	.8-1.25	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Japanese Painted Fern Tapestry of deep burgundy midrib surrounded by silver edges; triangular shaped fronds.						
<i>Cheilanthes argentea</i>	Silver Cloak Fern	<1	○●☁		1 g	\$12
Dryland fern thrives where most ferns will not; prostrate, deeply dissected, white undersides; tolerates alkali soils.						
<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Hay-scented Fern	1.5-2	○●☁		1 g	\$12
Colonizer; fairly drought tolerant; gold yellow-cinnamon fronds in fall; deciduous. N						
<i>Deparia acrostichoides</i>	Silver Glade Fern	2-3	●●☁		1 g	\$16
(Very Limited Quantity) Twice compound distinguishes it from Lady Fern, plus bluish cast; deciduous fern occurring in large drifts in local woods though not seen in trade. N PATRON EVENING ONLY						
<i>Diplazium pycnocarpon</i>	Narrow-leaved Glade Fern	2-3	●●☁		1 g	\$12
(Syn. <i>Athyrium pycnocarpon</i>) Large colony over time; deciduous; moist woods. N						
<i>Dryopteris</i> × <i>australis</i>	Dixie Wood Fern	4-5	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Naturally occurring, rare hybrid between <i>D. celsa</i> & <i>D. ludoviciana</i> ; upright; semi-evergreen; tolerant of dry sites. N						
<i>Dryopteris championii</i>	Champion's Wood Fern	2-3	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Evergreen; upright arching; dark green fronds; stipe & rachis with reddish-brown scales.						
<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i>	'Brilliance'	1.5-2	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Autumn Fern Coppery-orange new fronds fade to dark green; new growth through season; evergreen.						
<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>	Goldie's Fern	3-4	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Sturdy, stately as specimen; slow colonizer; semi-evergreen; good for tough, moist sites. N						
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal Wood Fern	4-5	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Clump forming; tolerant of dry sites; sori on outmost margin of underside; evergreen. N						
<i>Dryopteris tokyoensis</i>	Tokyo Wood Fern	3	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Deciduous woodland fern provides narrow vertical accent; vase shape.						
<i>Matteucia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern	3-4	●●☁		1 g	\$12
Vase-shape; large, beautifully textured; excellent to stabilize streambank; forms dense colonies; deciduous. N						
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	2-3	●●☁		1 g	\$12
(Syn. <i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>) Adapts well to boggy soils; separate spore-bearing, stiff, fertile fronds in early spring, turn brown; deciduous. N						
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern	2-3	●●☁		qt	\$9
Fronds 'interrupted' in the middle by spore-bearing leaflets; deciduous; vase form. N						
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> var. <i>spectabilis</i>	Royal Fern	3-5	○●☁		1 g	\$12
Lush, tropical feel; thrives in meadows/bogs; fertile spores on separate stalks; majestic; deciduous. N						
<i>Phegopteris decursive-pinnata</i>	Japanese Beech Fern	1-1.5	○●☁		1 g	\$12
(Syn. <i>Thelypteris</i>) Deciduous groundcover fern; arching, lance-shaped fronds; carpets ground to suppress weeds.						
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern	2-3	○●☁		1 g	\$12
Evergreen, winter interest; essential ingredient in all gardens; easy maintenance. N						
<i>Polystichum polyblepharum</i>	Tassel Fern	1.5-2	●●☁		1 g	\$12
(Syn. <i>P. setosum</i>) Evergreen. Shiny, dark green fronds; croziers flip backward to form tassel.						
<i>Polystichum tripterum</i>	Trifid Holly Fern	1	●●☁		qt	\$18
(Limited quantity) Division of clone collected in 1967 on Mt. Odae by Dr. Richard Lighty on plant exploring trip to S. Korea as part of Longwood-USA Ornamental Plant Exploration Program; robust grower; deciduous, basal pair leaflets; truly rare.						
<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York Fern	2-3	○●☁		1 g	\$12
Deciduous; groundcover given time; frond widest in middle, tapers sharply at both ends. N						



Osmunda claytoniana



Phegopteris decursive-pinnata



Polystichum acrostichoides



Polystichum tripterum



Thelypteris noveboracensis

Fern images courtesy of: Rick Darke (*Adiantum pedatum*, *Arachniodes standishii*, *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*, *Deparia acrostichoides*, *Dryopteris australis*, *Dryopteris marginalis*, *Matteucia struthiopteris*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Polystichum tripterum*, *Thelypteris noveboracensis*); Melinda Zoebler (*Asplenium scolopendrium*, *Athyrium* 'Minutissimum', 'Lady in Red', 'Pewter Lace', *Dryopteris championii*, *Dryopteris erythrosora* 'Brilliance', *Dryopteris goldiana*, *Dryopteris tokyoensis*, *Osmunda claytoniana*, *Phegopteris decursive-pinnata*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*)