



7454 Victor-Pittsford Road (Rt. 96)  
Victor, NY 14564  
(585) 924-2274

[customerservice@bristolsgardencenter.com](mailto:customerservice@bristolsgardencenter.com)

## GUIDE TO COMMON FERNS

### Autumn Fern

*Dryopteris erythrosora* Part shade – Full shade  
Evergreen. 12-24”  
Evenly moist, loamy soil. Z 5-8

### Christmas Fern

*Polystichum acrostichoides* Part shade – Full shade  
Evergreen. 12-24”  
Moist, loamy soil; will tolerate rocky semi-dry soil. Z 3-9

### Cinnamon Fern

*Osmunda cinnamomea* Part shade- Full shade  
Slow spreader. 24-48”  
Moist, loamy soil to wet, swampy soil. Z 2-9

### Deer Fern

*Blechnum spicant* Part shade – Full shade  
Moist, loamy soil. Acidic. 12-24”  
Z 4-8

### Hart's Tongue Fern

*Asplenium scolopendrium* Part shade – Full shade  
Evergreen. 1-2’  
Moist, well-drained loam; will tolerate rocky soils. Z 5a-9  
Requires good drainage and alkaline soils.

### Hay-scented Fern

*Dennstaedtia punctiloba* Part shade – Full shade  
Moist, humusy, acidic soil. 18-24”  
Tolerates occasional dryness once established. Z 3-8  
Tolerates sun with consistent moisture.

### Japanese Beech Fern

*Thelypteris decursive-pinnata* Bright shade  
Moist, loamy soil; slow spreading. 12-24”  
Z 4-10

### Japanese Painted Fern

*Athyrium niponicum* Part shade – Full shade  
Consistently moist, loose, loamy soil. 8-18”  
Z 4-9

### Lady Fern

*Athyrium filix-femina* Light sun – Part shade  
Moist, loamy soil. 12-24”  
Z 4-8

**Male Fern**

*Dryopteris filix-mas* Light sun – Part shade  
 Will tolerate sun with adequate moisture. 24-36”  
 Cool, moist, rocky soil. Z 4-8

**New York Fern**

*Thelypteris noveboracensis* Light sun – Part shade  
 Moist, humus-rich soil; tolerates rocky acidic soil. 12-24”  
 Drought tolerant once established. Z 4-8  
 Vigorous grower, can be an aggressive spreader.

**Northern Maidenhair Fern**

*Adiantum pedatum* Partial shade – Full shade  
 Moist, rich, well-drained loam. 12-24”  
 Z 2-8

**Ostrich Fern**

*Matteuccia struthiopteris* Partial shade  
 Heavy, rich soil to light, rich soil. 30-60”  
 Drought tolerant once established. Z 2-6  
 Can be an aggressive spreader; vigorous grower.  
 Ostrich fern produces edible fiddleheads.

**Ruffled Oak Fern**

*Gymnocarpium Dryopteris ‘plumosum’* Part shade- Full shade  
 Well drained, moist, rich woodland soil. 6-12”  
 Great for edging. Z 2-9

**Royal Fern**

*Osmunda regalis* Part shade - Full shade  
 Medium-wet soils. Humusy and acidic. \*taller in wet soil 2-3’  
 Adapts to lesser conditions once established.  
 Tolerates sun in wet conditions. Z 3-9

**Soft Shield Fern**

*Polystichum setiferum* Part shade – Full shade  
 Consistently evenly moist, loamy soil. 18-36”  
 Slightly acidic Ph. Z 5-8

**Tassel Fern**

*Polystichum polyblepharum* Part shade – Full shade  
 Evergreen in warmer climates. 12-24”  
 Rich, loamy soil with consistent moisture. Z 5-8  
 Tolerates occasional dryness once established.

**Marginal Wood Fern**

*Dryopteris marginalis* Part shade – Full shade  
 Adaptable. 18-30”  
 Moist, loamy soil to rocky moist soil. Z 2-8