

# Our Favorite Native Ferns for East TN Gardens

Common Name	Botanical Name	Features	Culture	Zone
<b>Northern Maidenhair Fern</b>	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Airy, delicate fronds in a circular arrangement unlike any other hardy fern. 12-18" tall. Can spread, but usually stays in a clump.	Rich, moist soil, shade	3-8
<b>Lady Fern</b>	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Finely cut fronds emerge throughout summer. Red stemmed variety common. In the right conditions can make a nice groundcover.	Rich, moist soil, shade to part sun.	4-8
<b>Lip Ferns</b>	<i>Cheilanthes lanosa and C. tomentosa</i>	Tiny and wonderfully distinct. Great in rock gardens and in container plantings/ kusamono. 6-14" tall. <i>C. lanosa</i> is easier in my experience.	Hates wet soil. Drought tolerant, Full sun to shade	5-9
<b>Hay Scented Fern</b>	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Bright green fronds smell like fresh mown hay when crushed. Rapid spreader best used as groundcover. 15 -24" tall	Shade, moist to average soil.	3-8
<b>Log Fern</b>	<i>Dryopteris celsa</i>	Magnificent evergreen fern growing to 4 feet tall. Rich, deep green fronds held fairly erect form a shapely image. Clump forming.	Shade, moist to average soil with good drainage	5-9
<b>Marginal Wood Fern</b>	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Lovely evergreen fern makes a nice accent plant. Leathery fronds grow to 18" tall. Not a spreader.	Part to full shade, moist to average	5-7
<b>Ostrich Fern</b>	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Magnificent vase shaped plants grow 3 to 4 feet tall. A spring delicacy, and a beauty, but WILL SPREAD RAPIDLY if encouraged.	Prefers moist, neutral soil, Sun to part shade	3-8
<b>Sensitive Fern</b>	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Quick spreading groundcover in moist shade, but in dry shade is more reserved. Lobed fronds are often tinged red when they emerge. 1-2' tall.	Shade to part sun, moisture required varies	3-10
<b>Cinnamon Fern</b>	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon hued fertile fronds arise in center of vase shaped mass of rich green fronds. Can grow to 6' tall and 4 wide. Magnificent!	Prefers moist, acidic soil. Full sun to shade.	3-7
<b>Royal Fern</b>	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Fertile fronds emerge high among the rest of the lush fronds. Texture is unique among natives. To 6' tall and 4 wide. Tough and resilient.	Prefers moist, acidic soil. Full sun to shade.	4-7
<b>Christmas Fern</b>	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Beautiful, tidy, evergreen fern. All around workhorse for the shade garden. 18-24" tall	Shade to part sun moist to dry soil	4-8
<b>Netted Chain Fern</b>	<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	Great groundcover for a damp site. Lustrous green fronds are smooth and deeply lobed. 18"	Damp to average soil, shade to PS	4-10

*These native ferns, along with a select assortment of the best hardy ferns from around the world may be found at*

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