

MICHIGAN FERNS



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BRACKEN FERN *Pteridium aquilinum*



Bracken is a large fern, sometimes growing over three feet tall. Instead of the usual leaves, ferns have fronds, made up of smaller leaflets (groups of mini-leaves) with small pinnae (tiny mini-leaves) on them. Each winter, Bracken's fronds die with the frost & fall to the ground. New fronds will grow

CINNAMON FERN *Osmunda cinnamomea*



Cinnamon Ferns are large, with fronds (leaves) growing up to six feet long and a foot wide. They grow in large clumps in moist woods, marshes, & streambanks. In Spring, new young fronds start to grow. They look like a skinny stem, which uncoils into a leafy frond. These young skinny fronds are called "fiddleheads."

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ROYAL FERN *Osmunda regalis*



The royal fern is one of the most widespread of all living plants and is found on every continent except Australia. This plant has witnessed the rise of reptiles, the flourishing and extinction of the dinosaurs. Its preferred habitat is swampy areas, & stream banks. The fern is long-lived (over 100 years).

INTERRUPTED FERN *Osmunda claytoniana*



This perennial fern develops a rosette of nearly erect leaves about 2-4' tall. There are 10 or more pairs of lobes per leaflet; the lobes become gradually smaller toward the tip of each leaflet. The caterpillars of many Moths feed on the Interrupted Fern. Because the foliage is bitter, it is rarely eaten by mammalian herbivores.

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LADY FERN *Athyrium filix-femina*



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This perennial fern has deciduous leaves about 2-3½' long in loose tufts. You may have this fern in your home. It is cultivated as an ornamental plant. The preference is dappled sunlight to light shade, moist conditions, and a loose loamy soil that is slightly acidic. This fern likes high humidity & wind protection.

OAK FERN *Osmunda cinnamomea*



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The Oak Fern is one of the most delicate and elegant of our species of ferns. This species colonizes the older forest floor in a fashion similar to Trillium. It lives in the thick organic surface soil/duff and is deciduous. A common Northern & Canadian fern. This is peculiarly a shade-loving fern.

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BULBLET FERN *Cystopteris bulbifera*



Habitats include rocky ravines, rocky banks of streams, & mossy boulders of rocky woodlands. This medium-small fern is unique because of the bulblets that form on the underside of its leaves. Aside from this unusual method of asexual reproduction, the Fern is similar in appearance to other *Cystopteris* spp.

OSTRICH FERN *Matteuccia struthiopteris*



Ostrich fern is a clump-forming, upright to arching, rhizomatous, deciduous fern which typically grows 2-3' tall, but may reach 6' tall in moist, cool climates. The vegetative fronds emerge at the narrow base of the clumps in spring as the familiar "fiddleheads". The showy fronds resemble Ostrich feathers.

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NORTHERN MAIDENHAIR FERN *Adiantum pedatum*



A highly cultivated fern grows up to 2 feet tall and several feet across, slowly spreading by means of a creeping rhizome that takes many years to get to the size of a saucer. It requires a well drained soil. It's often seen growing on a hillside where the fronds cascade over one another.

SENSITIVE FERN *Onoclea sensibilis*



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This native perennial fern consists of a few loose leaves that develop directly from the rootstock. The infertile leaves are 2-3' tall and erect. Sensitive Fern is fairly common and habitats include moist deciduous woodlands, sandy savannas, bluffs, & soggy thickets. The fern dates back to the dinosaurs.