

Common Ferns and Fern Allies of Eastern North America

Terrestrial Ecosystems ECOS11

PLEASE NOTE: The ferns and fern allies
identification test in this course will use pressed
and mounted specimens. These slides are for
reference purposes only.

Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum



Unique Form, leaves arranged
around a circular centre.

Stems black



Lady Fern



Athyrium filix-femina var. *angustum*



Thrice-cut fern

Bulblet Fern

Cystopteris bulbifera



Twice Cut



Bulblet present

Long slender fern

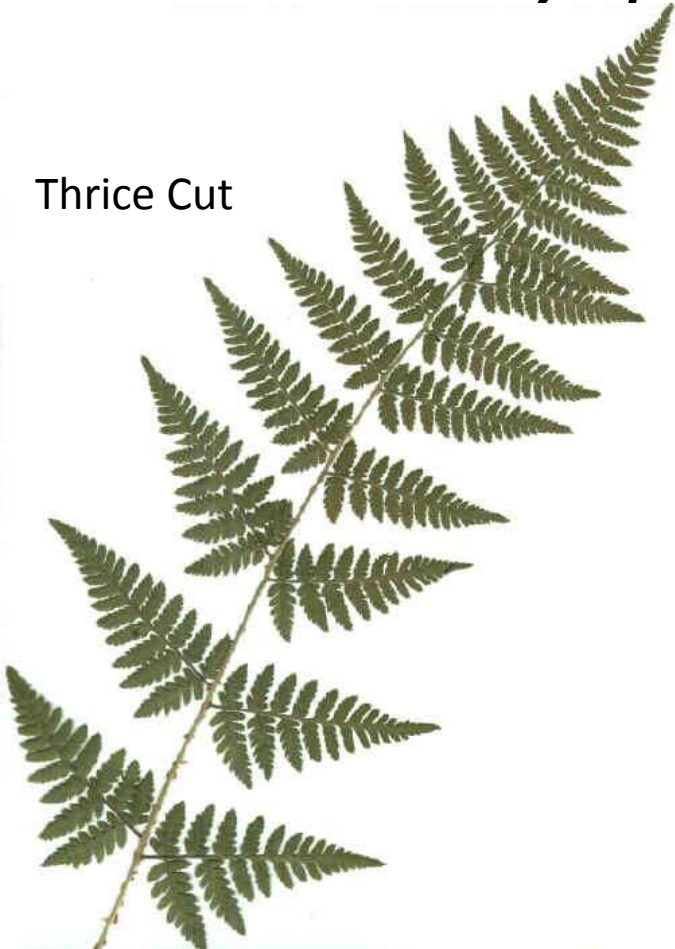


Spinulose Wood Fern

Dryopteris carthusiana



Thrice Cut



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Inner most pinnule of the lowest pinna
LONGER than adjacent pinnule

Marginal Wood Fern

Dryopteris marginalis



Twice Cut



Spores found on underside of the frond and are along the “margins” of the pinnules.



Swamp Horsetail

Equisetum fluviatile



http://www.florelaurentienne.com/flore/Groupees/Pteridophytes/images/Equisetum_fluviatile_008_950.jpg

<https://newfs.s3.amazonaws.com/taxon-images-1000s1000/Equisetaceae/equisetum-fluviatile-ha-dcameron.jpg>

Woodland horsetail

Equisetum sylvaticum



http://www.asturnatura.com/photo/_files/photogallery/355a74ee8b072f959ee43842ffc875ac.jpg



<http://luirig.altervista.org/cpm/albums/bot-units67/equisetum-sylvaticum30057.jpg>

Oak Fern

Gymnocarpium dryopteris



Interrupted clubmoss

Lycopodium annotinum



<http://nymf.bbg.org/images2/Lycopodium.annotinum.plants.JPG>



<http://luirig.altervista.org/cpm/albums/bot-025/002-lycopodium-annotinum.jpg>

Ground pine

Lycopodium dendroedum



http://repertoirequebecnature.com/images/vasculaires/Lycopodium_dendroideum/Lycopodium_dendroideum_5.jpg

Ostrich Fern

Matteuccia struthiopteris

Tapered at both ends



Fertile Fronds Separate



Twice cut



Very large Colony Forming
Fern

Sensitive Fern

Onoclea sensibilis



← Top portion is once cut



← Bottom portion is often twice cut



← Spores develop on separate frond

Cinnamon fern

Osmunda cinnamomea



http://api.ning.com/files/6wcMIWo9ZYhGFKMj36Ywf1OaptG9BwsvajYHTUffU1JwNIYM*HMZ1rOfZEVmoNm9gvTSbHVz0YYMEeJtOrpB-7cu*tckVAr2/CinnamonFernOsmundacinnamomea001.JPG?width=737&height=552

Twice-cut;
fertile
fronds
separate;
cinnamon
colour



https://c2.staticflickr.com/6/5212/5728643776_4b74fc88f1_z.jpg

Interrupted Fern



Twice Cut

Osmunda claytoniana



Prominent interruptions on the frond. The pinna are interrupted by fertile spores

Royal Fern



Wide frond

Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis

Twice Cut



Spores on
different
stalk, that
surpasses the
leafy fronds

Once Cut

Rock Polypody

Polypodium virginianum



Similar to Christmas fern, but lacks the “stocking” shaped pinnule. Some people claim it has a double sided “stocking”



Christmas Fern



Polystichum achrosticoides var. *achrosticoides*



Fronds grow upright, and the tips of the blade reflex, giving them a vertical look.



Pinna form a Christmas stocking shape, hence Christmas Fern.

Bracken Fern



Pteridium aquilinum var. *latiusculum*



Three distinct branches

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New York Fern

Thelypteris noveboracensis



<http://pics.davesgarden.com/pics/2009/06/21/estrail1rider/f5d8fc.jpg>

Twice-cut; fronds
tapered at both
ends; pale green



https://farm4.staticflickr.com/3297/3534929062_c9c7faf8fb_z.jpg

Marsh Fern



Thelypteris palustris var. *pubescens*



Very upright fern



Twice Cut