

Chapter 9

Ferns



Chapter Photograph - *Rumohra adiantiformis* (Leatherleaf Fern)

Chapter 9 - Ferns Breakdown:

Refer to the Landscape Plant Guide Breakdown (page 13) or Appendix for additional information on each specific category

Use Code	Specific Category	No. of Plants
A	Shade exposure	15
B	Very low to low watering	0
C	Invasive growth habit	1
D	Fragrant foliage	0
E	Season changing foliage color	0
F	Fragrant flowers	0
G	Edible or herbal uses	0
H	Indoor Use	4
ii	Slopes	0
J	Slopes-EC	1
K	Fire Risk	0
L	Fire Resistant	2
M	Deer Resistant	17
N	Oak	2
O	California Native	2
P	Espalier use	0
Q	Can be a clipped hedge	0
Total Number of Plants Listed		17





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Adiantum capillus-veneris

Southern Maidenhair Fern

A-M

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Temperate to tropical regions around the world
Sunset Climate Zones:	5-9, 14-24; H1, H2
Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen, cold deciduous
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	High
Growth Rate:	Moderate
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	12-18" tall x 12-18" wide
Foliage:	Light green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant

Asplenium bulbiferum

Hen-and-Chicken Fern, Mother Fern, Mother Spleenwort

A-H-M

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Australia and New Zealand
Sunset Climate Zones:	15-17, 20-24; protected in zone 14; or indoors
Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate to high
Growth Rate:	Moderate
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	3-4' tall x 3-4' wide
Foliage:	Dark green
Other Aspects:	Indoor Use / Deer Resistant

Asplenium nidus

Bird's-Nest Fern

Syn. Asplenium nidus-avis

A-H-M

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Tropical regions throughout the world
Sunset Climate Zones:	23, 24; H2; or indoors





Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate to high
Growth Rate:	Slow
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	3-4' tall x 3-5' wide
Foliage:	Upright, long, glossy bright green leaves
Other Aspects:	Indoor Use / Deer Resistant

Alsophila australis, see *Cyathea cooperi*

Cibotium glaucum

Hapu'u-ii, Hawaiian Tree Fern

M

Family:	Dicksoniaceae
Origin:	Hawaii
Sunset Climate Zones:	17, 23, 24; H2
Exposure:	Sun to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Tree fern
Water Requirements:	High
Growth Rate:	Very slow
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	15-20' tall x 12-15' wide
Foliage:	Mid-green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant

Cyathea cooperi

Australian Tree Fern

Syn. Alsophila australis, A. cooperi, Cyathea australis, Sphaeropteris cooperi

a-M

Family:	Cyatheaceae
Origin:	Australia
Sunset Climate Zones:	15-24; H1, H2
Exposure:	Sun to partial, but can tolerate shade exposure
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Tree fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate
Growth Rate:	Moderate to fast
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	15-20' tall x 10-12' wide
Foliage:	Mid-green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant





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Cyrtomium falcatum

Holly Fern, Japanese Holly Fern
Syn. Phanerophlebia falcata

A-H-L-M

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Japan
Sunset Climate Zones:	5-9, 14-24; H1, H2; or indoors
Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate to high
Growth Rate:	Moderate
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	2-3' tall x 2-3' wide
Foliage:	Glossy, dark green
Other Aspects:	Indoor Use / Fire Resistant / Deer Resistant
Additional Information:	Other varieties are known

Dicksonia antarctica

Man Fern, Tasmanian Tree Fern, Woolly Tree Fern

A-M

Family:	Dicksoniaceae
Origin:	Eastern Australia and Tasmania
Sunset Climate Zones:	8, 9, 14-17, 19-24; H1
Exposure:	Sun to shade
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Tree fern
Water Requirements:	High
Growth Rate:	Slow
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	12-15' tall x 8-12' wide
Foliage:	Pale green leaves maturing to mid-green to dark green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant
Additional Information:	Hardest of the tree ferns

Matteuccia struthiopteris

Ostrich Fern
(Sold also as *Matteuccia pensylvanica*)

A-M

Family:	Polypodiaceae
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Origin:	Eastern Asia, Europe and eastern North America
Sunset Climate Zones:	A1-A3; 1-10, 14-17
Exposure:	Sun to shade
Plant Character:	Evergreen, cold deciduous
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate to high
Growth Rate:	Fast
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	4-6' tall x 3-4' wide
Foliage:	Pale green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant

Microlepia strigosa

Lace Fern
(Sold also as *Microlepia speluncae*)

A-M

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Japan, northern India and Polynesia
Sunset Climate Zones:	17, 23, 24
Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate to high
Growth Rate:	Fast
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	2-3' tall x 2-3' wide
Foliage:	Dark green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant

Nephrolepis cordifolia

Ladder Fern, Southern Sword Fern, Sword Fern
(Sold also as *Nephrolepis exaltata*)

A-c-J-L-M-N

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Tropical regions throughout the world
Sunset Climate Zones:	8, 9, 12-24; H1, H2
Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate
Growth Rate:	Fast
Invasive Growth Habit:	Aggressive grower which can possibly be invasive
Height / Width:	2-3' tall x 4-5' wide





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Foliage:	Mid-green
Other Aspects:	Slope-EC / Fire Resistant / Deer Resistant / Oak
Additional Information:	Other varieties are known; can take less water than most other ferns.

Nephrolepis exaltata

A-h-M

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Florida, Mexico, Central to tropical South America, West Indies, Africa and Polynesia
Sunset Climate Zones:	23, 24; H2
Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate
Growth Rate:	Fast
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	3-5' + tall x 5-7' wide
Foliage:	Pale green
Other Aspects:	Indoor Use- 'Bostoniensis' variety* / Deer Resistant
Additional Information:	*Other varieties are known, but 'Bostoniensis' (Boston Fern) variety is best known and very popular for indoor use; grows to about 3' tall and just as wide.

Polystichum munitum

Sword Fern, Western Sword Fern

A-M-N-O

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	The northwest of North America, from Alaska, Montana to California
Sunset Climate Zones:	A3; 2-9, 14-24
Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen, semi-deciduous
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate to high
Growth Rate:	Moderate
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	2-4' tall x 2-4' wide
Foliage:	Dark green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant / Oak / California Native





Polystichum polyblepharum

Japanese Lace Fern, Tassel Fern
(Sold also as *Polystichum setosum*)

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Japan and South Korea
Sunset Climate Zones:	4-9, 14-24
Exposure:	Shade
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate to high
Growth Rate:	Slow to moderate
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	2-3' tall x 2-3' wide
Foliage:	Dark green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant

A-M

Polystichum setiferum

Hedge Fern, Soft Shield Fern

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Europe
Sunset Climate Zones:	4-9, 14-24
Exposure:	Shade
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate to high
Growth Rate:	Slow to moderate
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	2-4' tall x 2-4' wide
Foliage:	Dark green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant

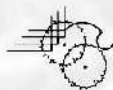
A-M

Rumohra adiantiformis

Leather Fern, Leatherleaf Fern
(Sold also as *Aspidium capense*)

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Subtropical to tropical regions throughout the southern hemisphere
Sunset Climate Zones:	14-17, 19-24; H1, H2
Exposure:	Sun to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern

M





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Water Requirements:	Moderate
Growth Rate:	Moderate
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	2-3' tall x 2-3' wide
Foliage:	Dark green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant

Woodwardia fimbriata

Giant Chain Fern

Syn. *Woodwardia chamissoi*, *W. radicans*

A-M-O

Family:	Polypodiaceae
Origin:	Southern British Columbia, Canada to southern California
Sunset Climate Zones:	2b-9, 14-24
Exposure:	Shade to partial
Plant Character:	Evergreen, semi-deciduous
Growth Habit / Form:	Fern
Water Requirements:	Moderate
Growth Rate:	Moderate to fast
Invasive Growth Habit:	None
Height / Width:	4-6'+ tall x 3-4'+ wide; can grow much taller where it is native.
Foliage:	Mid-green
Other Aspects:	Deer Resistant / California Native

