



FERNS AND FERN ALLIES

Lycopodiella alopecuroides

Common name: Foxtail Clubmoss

Form: Creeping perennial

Leaves: Densely congested on stems; linear-lanceolate, to ½ inch long

Flowers: None; a fern ally that reproduces by spores formed at the bases of leaves on erect fertile branches

Fruit: None

Habitat: Bogs, marshes, wet roadsides, moist sandy waste places

Comment: Stems arching, root at points where they touch the soil. Spores are explosive in high densities and have been collected and sold as “flash powder.”



Lygodium japonicum

EXOTIC INVASIVE

- Common name: Japanese Climbing Fern
- Form: Herbaceous, climbing or twining perennial, up to 90 feet long
- Leaves: Opposite, compound, stalked, triangular; non-fertile leaflets lobed and dissected; fertile leaflets compressed with two rows of sporangia along the margin
- Flowers: None
- Fruit: None
- Habitat: Roadsides, upland forests, flatwoods, maritime forests
- Comment: Japanese Climbing Ferns often climb up and grow over other vegetation. Its growth can become dense enough to block out sunlight which will eventually kill the plants underneath.

Osmunda cinnamomea

Common name: Cinnamon Fern

Form: Large deciduous, rhizomatous fern

Leaves: Basal; sterile leaves are up to 5 feet long, pinnately compound; leaflets have rounded teeth



Flowers: None; fertile, spore-producing leaves, in spring; upright, to 3 feet tall, densely covered with cinnamon-colored hairs

Fruit: None

Habitat: Swamps, bogs, moist forests, in sun or shade

Osmunda regalis

Common name: Royal Fern

Form: Large deciduous, rhizomatous fern

Leaves: Basal; twice-pinnately compound, to 5 feet long

Flowers: None; branches at the top of some leaves are fertile and produce spores

Fruit: None

Habitat: Damp woods, swamp borders, bogs



Comments: Cinnamon and Royal ferns are over-collected in some areas, for their fibrous roots that are used as a growing-medium for orchids; sold as "Osmunda."

Pteridium aquilinum

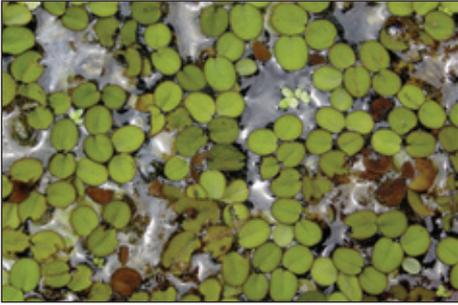
- Common name: Western Brackenfern
- Form: Herbaceous rhizomatous perennial, to 3 feet tall
- Leaves: Basal; deciduous, to 3 feet wide; triangular in outline; twice-pinnately compound; branched; sub-leaflets alternate, with under-curved margins
- Flowers: None; reproduces by spores formed in a continuous line along the undersides of leaflet edges
- Fruit: None
- Habitat: Open woods on sandy soil, moist to dry; flatwoods, bogs; often seen in pine forests after fires
- Comments: Poisonous to livestock; research suggests western brackenfern is carcinogenic if ingested.



Salvinia minima

EXOTIC INVASIVE

Common name: Water Spangles



Form: Small herbaceous, free-floating aquatic fern.

Leaves : Oval, to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, with heart-shaped bases. Upper surfaces are covered with rows of bristly hairs that repel water

Flowers: None; reproduces vegetatively by budding during warm weather

Fruit: None

Habitat: Fresh and brackish bodies of water with salinities below 8‰

Comments: Native to South America this species quickly reproduces and blocks sunlight, causing severe changes to the aquatic habitat beneath it. A similar species, *S. molesta* (Giant Salvinia), is even more aggressive and also occurs in this area.

Selaginella apoda

Common Name: Meadow Spikemoss

Form: Creeping, mat-forming perennial fern ally

Leaves: Narrowly oval or lance-shaped; to $\frac{3}{16}$ inch long; congested on stems

Flowers: None; spores form at the bases of special leaves at the tips of some stems

Fruit: None

Habitat: Moist woods, meadows; sometimes found in lawns



Woodwardia areolata

Common name: Netted Chain Fern

Form: Deciduous, perennial, 1 ½ - 2 feet tall

Leaves: Bright waxy green, lanceolate, pinnatifid, wide wings along main axis; sterile fronds shorter than fertile fronds

Flowers: None

Fruit: None

Habitat: Bogs, savannas, roadsides, upland, flatwoods, maritime forests

Comment: Fertile fronds of the netted chain fern are taller than non-fertile fronds and have narrower pinnae with chain-like rows of sori containing sporangia.



Woodwardia virginica

Common name: Virginia Chain Fern; Giant Chain Fern

Form: Deciduous, perennial, 2 - 5 feet tall

Leaves: Pinnately divided almost to midrib, leathery; long, shiny purple-brown frond stalks; fronds tapering at the base and tip; sterile and fertile fronds similar



Flowers: None

Fruit: None

Habitat: Bogs, marshes, roadsides, savannas, maritime forests and pine flatwoods

Comment: Spores produced on the underside as fertile fronds mature
June - September.