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UC Marin Master Gardeners - Ferns

Botanical Name: *Adiantum aleuticum*
Common Name: Five-Finger Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade, Deep Shade
Water: High

This fern will grow to about 2' tall and wide. It has tough brown stems with light green, fingerlike fronds. It needs constant moisture and well draining soil. This California native does well in containers and can be grown indoors. It prefers partial sun and shade. Additional Common Name: Western Maidenhair

Plant Height: 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Adiantum capillus-veneris*
Common Name: Maidenhair Fern
Plant Type: Ground cover, Fern
Sun: Half, Shade, Deep Shade
Water: Medium, Extra in Summer

The fronds of the Maidenhair fern are compact, with small, lacy leaflets. This plant does best in low light or complete shade with moist, well draining soil. This fern can grow to less than 1' tall and about 1.5' wide. It does well in containers and tolerates heat and humidity when not extreme.

Plant Height: Under 1'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Adiantum pedatum*
Common Name: Western Maidenhair Fern
Plant Type: Ground cover, Fern
Sun: Half, Shade, Deep Shade
Water: Medium, Extra in Summer

The fronds of the Maidenhair fern are compact, with small, lacy leaflets. This plant does best in low light or complete shade with moist, well draining soil. This fern can grow to less than 1' tall and about 1.5' wide. It does well in containers and tolerates heat and humidity when not extreme.

Plant Height: Under 1'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers'*
Common Name: Myers Asparagus
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Full, Half, Shade
Water: Low, Medium
An evergreen groundcover, the 'Myers' also makes an excellent hanging basket plant when larger in size. Its formal looking fronds have an even, spiral arrangement of leaflets. It is damaged by severe frosts, and looks best with at least occasional watering.

Plant Height: Under 1', 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Light Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Asparagus densiflorus 'Sprengeri'*
Common Name: Sprenger Asparagus
Plant Type: Ground cover, Fern
Sun: Full, Half, Shade
Water: Low
This plant is given a soft, mound-like appearance by the long, arching branches that are found covered with small, bright green leaves. It is able to grow in either full sun or partial shade.

Plant Height: Under 1', 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Light Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Asplenium scolopendrium*
Common Name: Hart's Tongue Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade, Deep Shade
Water: Medium, High
This fern is clumping, growing 9"-18" tall and 2' wide. The fronds are unusual in that they are whole and undivided. It does well in cold climates. This plant is common in Europe but rare in North America. Leaves are dark green in deep shade but become yellowish and stunted in full sun.

Plant Height: 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Dark Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Athyrium 'Burgundy Lace'*
Common Name: Burgundy Lace Painted Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium, Extra in Summer
One of the most popular ferns due to the leaf color. It has gorgeous metallic burgundy leaves (brightest in spring). Great vigor in containers as well as in the garden

Plant Height: 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Bronze, Red
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Blechnum penna-marina*
Common Name: Alpine Water Fern
Plant Type: Ground cover, Fern
Sun: Half, Shade, Deep Shade
Water: Medium
Alpine Water Fern is a great garden plant which has bronze fronds in the new growth transitioning to rich green color at maturity. It is a creeper which can fill spaces between stones and paving. It slowly creeps to fill cracks and crevices between paving stones or rockery walls. It is useful as a ground cover and is great for a forest effect.

Plant Height: Under 1'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Bronze, Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Cyathea cooperi*
Common Name: Australian Tree Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium
This evergreen fern reaches a height of 10' with light green fronds that spread to a width of 15'. Its fronds are wider and held more horizontally than those of the Tasmanian fern tree. It requires part shade to shade, with average to little summer watering. This plant performs well in containers, and is damaged by frost below 25 degrees F.

Plant Height: 6-12'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Light Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Cyrtomium falcatum*
Common Name: Japanese Holly Fern
Plant Type: Shrub, Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium, High

An evergreen fern, this Holly bears bold, dark green, coarsely divided, formal looking fronds to 30" tall. It should be grown in part shade to shade, receiving average watering. It is a good choice for a container plant.

Plant Height: 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Davallia trichomanoides*
Common Name: Squirrel's Foot Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: High, Extra in Summer

Davallia trichomanoides is a visually fascinating plant with its furry rhizomes and delicate finely divided gray-green fronds. It is sometimes called Squirrel's Foot Fern. It is an excellent choice for a basket. It grows as an epiphyte on tree branches in Malaysia New Guinea and Indonesia. Davallia is deciduous for a short time but it quickly grows new fronds. It requires ample water in the growing season and in the drier conditions of dormancy. When potted it's important to keep the soil on the dry side but not 'bone dry'. -Village Nursery

Plant Height: 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Dicksonia antarctica*
Common Name: Tasmanian Tree Fern
Plant Type: Shrub, Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium, High

This slow-growing plant is the hardiest of all tree ferns. Its fronds, 3'-6' long, are also dark green in color. It should receive part sun, and average watering, although the plants will take relatively dry conditions when established.

Plant Height: 3-6', 6-12'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Light Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Dryopteris marginalis*
Common Name: Marginal Wood Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Shade
Water: High, Extra in Summer

The leathery leaves of Dryopteris marginalis are a beautiful addition to the woodland garden and can form a lovely an easy to maintain groundcover. A sturdy east coast native, it forms a tidy clump that will not spread and is very tolerant of dry shade conditions once it has established.

Plant Height: 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Green, Light Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Nephrolepis cordifolia 'Duffii'*
Common Name: Lemon Button Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium

Lemon Button Fern is the smallest Boston ferns. It is compact with tiny green button-like leaflets on dark green, arching stems that reach just a foot high. A lemony scent is often expressed when the leaves are crushed. It is an evergreen.

Plant Height: Under 1'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Polypodium californicum*
Common Name: California Polypody
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium

California Polypody is a low fern that grows in moist rock crevices. Frequently found in the Sierras. It is a deep shade plant. It grows in soils that are heavy clay, gravel or just rock. Polypodiums just need wet feet in winter and early spring, as the ground dries out and goes dormant in the summer.

Plant Height: 1-3'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Green
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Polystichum munitum*
Common Name: Western Sword Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade, Deep Shade
Water: Low, Medium

This fern looks refined year-round, bearing upright, shiny, leathery fronds that reach 4'-5' tall in moist, cool forests in Northern California. It is usually smaller in gardens, especially when summer water is withheld. It is great in containers or dry shade landscapes. This species is especially useful to give the illusion of a lush, moist garden where little water is actually being used. It should receive part to dense shade.

Plant Height: 1-3', 3-6'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife:
Leaf Color:
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Rumohra adiantiformis*
Common Name: Leather Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium

This fern will grow to 3' tall and has glossy, deep green leaves that look great in floral arrangements.

Plant Height: 3-6'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color:
Flower Season: n/a

Botanical Name: *Woodwardia fimbriata*
Common Name: Giant Chain Fern
Plant Type: Fern
Sun: Half, Shade
Water: Medium

The Giant Chain Fern is a large fern that grows 4'-8' tall. It can tolerate full sun but does best in some shade. This fern is native to California and is drought tolerant. -Cornflower Farms

Plant Height: 6-12'
Flower Color: n/a
Attracts Wildlife: n/a
Leaf Color: Dark Green
Flower Season: n/a

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