

Ferns for Your Landscape

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General information

- Many varieties ranging from very small to very large
- Ferns prefer acidic to neutral soil, pH 4-7
- Ferns thrive in light to heavy shade
- Ferns prefer rich well-drained soils but most will tolerate poor soils
- Many ferns require only moderate to low water and a number are drought resistant once established
- Some ferns are CA Natives

California Native Plant Society Calscape - search for each fern for descriptions and cultural requirements

Ferns in moist shade

- *Polystichum munitum* Sword Fern
- *Polystichum dudleyi* Dudley's Shield Fern
- *Blechnum spicant*, Deer Fern
- *Woodwardia fimbriata*, Giant Chain Fern
- *Adiantum aleuticum*, Five-finger Fern
- *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, Venus-hair Fern
- *Athyrium filix-femina*, Lady Fern (dormant in winter)
- *Dryopteris expansa*, Spiny Wood Fern

Ferns in drier shade

- *Dryopteris arguta*, Common Wood Fern
- *Adiantum jordanii*, California Maidenhair (summer dormant)
- *Polypodium californicum*, California polypody
- *Polypodium glycyrrhiza*, Licorice Fern
- *Pteridium aquilinum*, Bracken Fern (very common, grows in many types of locations, exceptionally large fronds; rapidly spreading rhizomes make this invasive in gardens)

UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars

- http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx
- 100 “tough, reliable plants that have been tested in the Arboretum, are easy to grow, don't need a lot of water, have few problems with pests or diseases, and have outstanding qualities in the garden”
- Search on type, size, sun exposure, CA native

WUCOLS drought tolerant ornamentals

- WUCOLS IV web site (Water Use Classification of Landscape Species) to get accurate water use information for specific plants for your specific location!!!
- <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>
- Rating on WUCOLS IV is based on amount of water it takes to keep the plant looking satisfactory, not stressed!
- Find scientific name of your plant, many plants have same “common” name.
- Most plants were evaluated for full sun.

Resources and references

- ‘All About Ferns, A Resource Guide’, Audrey Bowe, blogs.cornell.edu/naturalistoutreach/files/2013/09/Fern-Guide-27sra8m.pdf
- Cultural information about ferns, Hardy Fern Foundation, <http://www.hardyferns.org>
- Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region, East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Sunset Western Garden Book, Sunset Publishing 2007 (New one published 2012)
- California Native Plants for the Garden by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O’Brien, Cachuma Press June 2006
- ‘California Native Ferns’, www.nativeplants.org/wp-content/uploads/ferns-of-california.pdf
- Water Use Classification of Landscape Species <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>
- UC Davis Arboretum All-stars http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx
- California Native Plant Society Santa Clara County <http://www.cnps-scv.org/>
- California Native Plant Society Calscape <http://calscape.org/>
- ‘Ferns in the Garden’, <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Newsletter-WinterSpring2013.pdf>

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