

FERNS – YOUR “WHERE TO PLANT” GUIDE

Here is a list of the more common ferns and the situation(s) they are best planted in. Also tells if cold hardy.

N.B some ferns are very adaptable and can grow in various conditions

	Species name	Common fern name	NZ Native?	Sunny Spots (mulch)	Dry shaded	Light shaded	Coastal	Moist and shady	Cold hardy	Indoor	Ground cover
TREE FERNS	Cyathea dealbata	Silver	yes		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Cyathea medullaris	Mamaku or Black ponga	yes	✓			✓	✓	✓		
	Cyathea smithii	Soft Tree	yes			✓		✓	✓		
	Cyathea cunninghami	Gully Tree	yes			✓		✓	✓		
	Cyathea tomentosissima	New Guinea lace		✓			✓				
	Dicksonia antarctica	Tasmanian Tree		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	Dicksonia fibrosa	Wheki ponga	yes	✓	✓	✓			✓		
	Dicksonia squarrosa	Brown Tree or Wheki	yes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
GROUND FERNS	Adiantum aethiopicum	Common maiden hair	yes		✓		✓		✓	✓	
	Adiantum hispidulum	Rosy maiden hair	yes		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Asparagus plumosa		yes	✓						✓	✓
	Asplenium bulbiferum	Hen and chicken	yes		✓				✓	✓	✓
	Asplenium flaccidum	Hanging spleenwort	yes		✓				✓	✓	✓
	Asplenium flabellifolium	Necklace or Butterfly	yes						✓	✓	✓
	Asplenium oblongifolium	Shining spleenwort	yes		✓			✓	✓	✓	
	Asplenium obtusatum	Shore spleenwort	yes	✓		✓	✓			✓	
	Asplenium polyodon	Sickle spleenwort	yes		✓				✓	✓	
	Athyrium otophorum	Japanese Painted							✓	✓	
	Blechnum chambersii	Lance or nini	yes						✓		
	Blechnum discolor	Crown	yes		✓	✓			✓	✓	
	Blechnum fluviatile	Water or Kiwakiwa	yes						✓	✓	
	Blechnum fraserii	Miniature Tree	yes		✓	✓	✓				
	Blechnum minus	Swamp kiokio	yes				✓	✓	✓		✓
	Blechnum novae-zealandiae	Kiokio or palm leaf	yes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Blechnum penna marina	Alpine water	yes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
	Cyrtomium falcatum	Holly		✓	✓				✓	✓	
	Davallia	Rabbits foot			✓					✓	
	Davialla mariesii	Hares foot			✓					✓	
	Doodia aspera	Prickly rasp	yes			✓	✓				✓
	Doodia media (syn. australis)	Common rasp or pukupuku	yes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Doodia squarrosa		yes	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
	Dryopteris atrata	Oak leaf							✓	✓	
	Dryopteris carthusiana					✓			✓	✓	
	Dryopteris dilatata								✓	✓	
	Dryopteris erythrosora	Autumn /Japanese buckler				✓				✓	
	Dryopteris filix mas	Male							✓	✓	
	Dryopteris filix mas plumosa	Plumed male							✓	✓	
	Dryopteris wallichiana								✓	✓	
	Lastreopsis glabella	Smooth shield	yes			✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Lastreopsis microsora	Creeping shield	yes			✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Leptopteris hymenophlloides	Single Crape	yes						✓	✓	
	Leptopteris superba	Prince of Wales Feathers	yes						✓		
	Marattia salicina	King or horshoe	yes						✓		
	Matteuccia struthiopteris	Ostrich							✓	✓	
	Nephrolepis sp	Boston				✓			✓	✓	✓
	Pellaea rotundifolia	Button	yes		✓	✓				✓	
	Polystichum braunii					✓			✓		
	Polystichum proliferum					✓	✓		✓		
	Polystichum richardii	Common shield	yes			✓	✓		✓		
	Polystichum setiferum	Mother shield		✓		✓				✓	
	Polystichum vestitum	Prickly shield	yes	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
	Pteris cretica	Cretan brake				✓					
	Pteris tremula	Shaking or tender brake	yes			✓			✓	✓	
	Rumohra adiantiformis	Leathery shield	yes			✓			✓	✓	