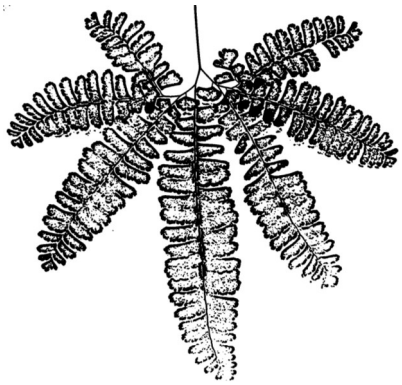
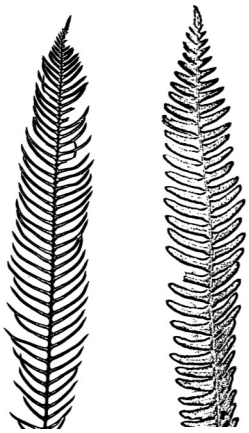
Common Native Ferns and Allies



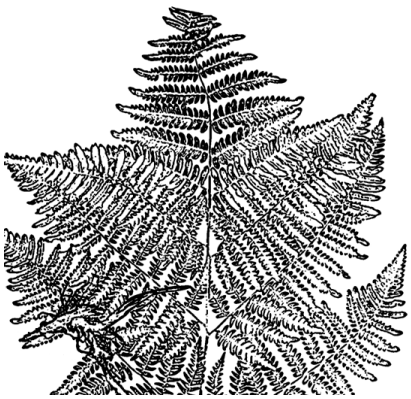
Five-finger Fern
Adiantum aleuticum
Fan-shaped, delicate fern with long black stems, found in moist shady areas such as Fern Canyon.

Lady Fern
Athyrium filix-femina var. *cyclosorum*
Very common fern in moist redwood forests. Often found near creeks. Delicate fronds taper at base to form a diamond outline.

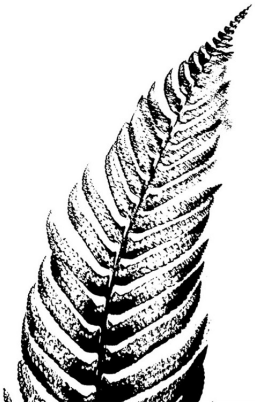
Wood Fern
Dryopteris arguta
Often found growing from stumps, or woody debris. Forms triangle at base unlike Lady Fern.



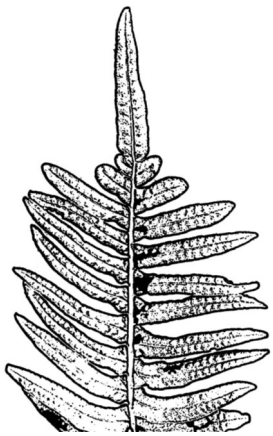
Deer Fern
Blechnum spicant
Long, narrow, erect fern tapers at tip and base. Slender fronds at left are fertile, sterile at right.



Bracken Fern
Pteridium aquilinum var. *pubescens*
Grows in large colonies in meadows. Triangular in outline.
Most widely spread fern in world.

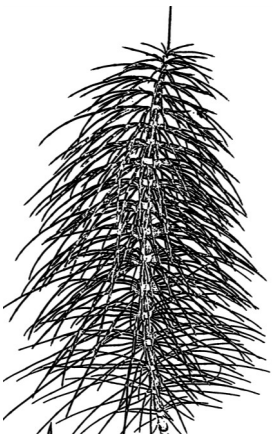


Sword Fern
Polystichum munitum
Dark green, tall, dry fern with pinnae that taper toward base to resemble hilt of sword.



Leather Fern
Polypodium scouleri
Often grows as epiphyte on tree bark or in canopies. Fronds have thick, leathery texture.

Licorice Fern
Polypodium glycyrrhiza
Often grows on big-leaf maples within park. Chewed rhizome has licorice taste.



Common Horsetail
Equisetum arvense
Like ferns, Horsetails reproduce via spores. Leaves grow in whorls from joints. One of earth's oldest plants.