



Ferns and Lycophytes of Shenandoah

Ferns and fern allies such as club mosses and horsetails can be discovered in almost any habitat within Shenandoah National Park. These vascular plants reproduce through spores and can live anywhere from the moist soil around a spring, to the dry crevices of a cliff face. Shenandoah National Park has a large number of ferns and fern allies because the park straddles the ranges of both northern and southern species.

This list was compiled using the NPSpecies database in January 2023. You can find the most up-to-date information, as well as expanded definitions of the tags at: <https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/>.

Abundance (Abd): Abundant (A), Common (C), Uncommon (Uc), Rare (R), Occasional (O), Unknown (U).

Season: when species is most easily encountered. Spring (Sp) is March - May, Summer (S) is June - August, Fall (F) is September - October, Winter (W) is November - February.

Habitat: Aquatic (AQ), Cultural (CU), Forest Edge (FE), Meadow (ME), Mesic forest (MF), Rock Outcrop (RO), Shrub/Scrub (SS), Wetland (WL), Xeric forest (XF), Park-wide (PW).

Seasonality (Seas): whether or not a species reproduces in Shenandoah National Park. Breeder (B), Resident (R), Migratory (M), Vagrant (V), Not Applicable (blank).

Rarity Rank (Rnk): any combination of global (G) rarity and state (S) rarity from 1-5. Critically imperiled (G1 or S1), imperiled (G2 or S2), vulnerable (G3 or S3), apparently secure (G4 or S4), secure (G5 or S5). You may also see: inexact numeric rank (?), questionable taxonomy (Q), subspecies status (T), or unranked (blank).

	Abd	Season				Habitat	Seas	Rnk
		Sp	S	F	W			
Maidenhair Fern <i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	C	.	.	.	.	MF WL		G5 S5
Bradley's Spleenwort <i>Asplenium bradleyi</i>	R	.	.	.	.	RO XF		G4 S2
Mountain Spleenwort <i>Asplenium montanum</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	MF,RO XF		G5 S5
Lobed Spleenwort <i>Asplenium pinnatifidum</i>	R	.	.	.	.	MF,RO XF		G4 S4
Ebony Spleenwort <i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>	C	.	.	.	.	ME,MF RO,XF		G5 S5
Black-stem Spleenwort <i>Asplenium resiliens</i>	R	.	.	.	.	MF,RO XF		G5 S4
Walking Fern <i>Asplenium rhizophyllum</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	MF RO		G5 S5
Maidenhair Spleenwort <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	MF RO		G5 S5
Lady Fern <i>Athyrium asplenoides</i>	C	.	.	.	.	MF WL		G5 S5
Triangle Grape Fern <i>Botrychium angustisegmentum</i>	R	.	.	.	.	ME,MF WL		G5 S1
Daisyleaf Moonwort <i>Botrychium matricariifolium</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	ME MF		G5 S4
Least Moonwort <i>Botrychium simplex</i>	R	.	.	.	.	MF		G5 S1
Rattlesnake Fern <i>Botrychium virginianus</i>	C	.	.	.	.	ME,MF WL,XF		G5 S5
Rock Spike-moss <i>Bryodesma rupestre</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	RO XF		G5 S5
Interrupted Fern <i>Claytonmunda claytoniana</i>	C	.	.	.	.	MF WL		G5 S5
Lowland Brittle Fern <i>Cystopteris protrusa</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	MF		G5 S5
Fragile Fern <i>Cystopteris tenuis</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	MF		G5 S4
Common Ground-pine <i>(Dendrolycopodium obscurum)</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	MF WL		G5 S5
Hay-scented Fern <i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	A	.	.	.	.	ME, MF,RO, WL,XF		G5 S5
Silvery Glade Fern <i>Deparia acrostichoides</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	MF,RO WL		G5 S4
Common Running-cedar <i>(Diphasiastrum digitatum)</i>	C	.	.	.	.	ME MF		G5 S5
Blue Running-cedar <i>Diphasiastrum tristachyum</i>	Uc	.	.	.	.	MF,RO XF		G5 S5
Toothed Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	C	.	.	.	.	MF,RO WL		G5 S5
Crested Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris cristata</i>	R	.	.	.	.	WL		G5 S5
Goldie's Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris goldieana</i>	R	.	.	.	.	MF WL		G4 S4
Fancy Fern <i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>	C	MF WL		G5 S5



Shenandoah National Park
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	Abd	Season				Habitat	Scas	Rnk
		Sp	S	F	W			
Marginal Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	C	•	•	•	•	MF,RO WL,XF	G5 S5	
Field Horsetail <i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Uc	•	•	•		ME,MF WL	G5 S5	
Tall Scouring Rush <i>Equisetum praealtum</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	MF WL	G5 S5	
Appalachian Oak Fern <i>Gymnocarpium appalachianum</i>	Uc	•	•	•		MF,RO XF	G3 S3	
Appalachian Fir Clubmoss (<i>Huperzia appressa</i>)	R	•	•	•	•	RO	G5 S2	
Shining Clubmoss <i>Huperzia lucidula</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	MF WL	G5 S5	
Mountain Quillwort <i>Isoetes valida</i>	R	•	•	•	•	WL	G4? S4	
Nettled Chain-fern <i>Lorinseria areolata</i>	Uc	•	•	•		MF WL	G5 S5	
Running Clubmoss <i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	ME,MF WL	G5 S5	
Hairy Lip Fern <i>Myriopteris lanosa</i>	R	•	•	•	•	RO XF	G5 S5	
Sensitive Fern <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	C	•	•	•	•	ME,MF WL	G5 S5	
Limestone Adder's-tongue (<i>Ophioglossum engelmannii</i>)	R	•	•	•		RO XF	G5 S3	
Southern Adder's-tongue (<i>Ophioglossum pycnostichum</i>)	Uc	•	•	•		ME,MF WL	G5 S5	
Royal Fern <i>Osmunda spectabilis</i>	Uc	•	•	•		ME WL	G5 S5	
Cinnamon Fern <i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	MF WL	G5 S5	
New York Fern <i>Parathelypteris noveboracensis</i>	C	•	•	•		ME,MF WL	G5 S5	
Purple Cliff-brake <i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	RO	G5 S5	
Broad Beech-fern <i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i>	C	•	•	•		MF WL	G5 S5	
Appalachian Rock Polypody (<i>Polypodium appalachianum</i>)	Uc	•	•	•	•	MF,RO WL,XF	G4G5 S4?	
Common Rock Polypody (<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>)	Uc	•	•	•	•	MF,RO XF	G5 S5	
Christmas Fern <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	C	•	•	•	•	MF,WL XF	G5 S5	
Bracken Fern <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	C	•	•	•		ME, MF,RO, WL,XF	G5 S5	
Southern Grape Fern <i>Sceptridium biternatum</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	ME,MF XF	G5 S5	
Dissected Grape Fern <i>Sceptridium dissectum</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	ME,MF XF	G5 S5	
Leathery Grape Fern <i>Sceptridium multifidum</i>	R	•	•	•	•	ME	G5 S1	

	Abd	Season				Habitat	Scas	Rnk
		Sp	S	F	W			
Blunt-lobed Grape Fern <i>Sceptridium oneidense</i>	R	•	•	•	•	ME MF	G4 S1	
Stiff Clubmoss <i>Spinulum annotinum</i>	R	•	•	•	•	ME,MF WL	G5 S3?	
Marsh Fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Uc	•	•	•		ME,MF WL	G5 S5	
Rusty Cliff Fern <i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	RO	G5 S4	
Blunt-lobed Cliff Fern <i>Woodsia obtusa</i>	Uc	•	•	•	•	MF,RO XF	G5 S5	