



Northwest Ferns

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Parts of a Fern

Fron

(twice divided leaflet or twice pinnately compound,)

Fiddleheads

(uncurling fronds)

Fron

(once divided or once pinnate)

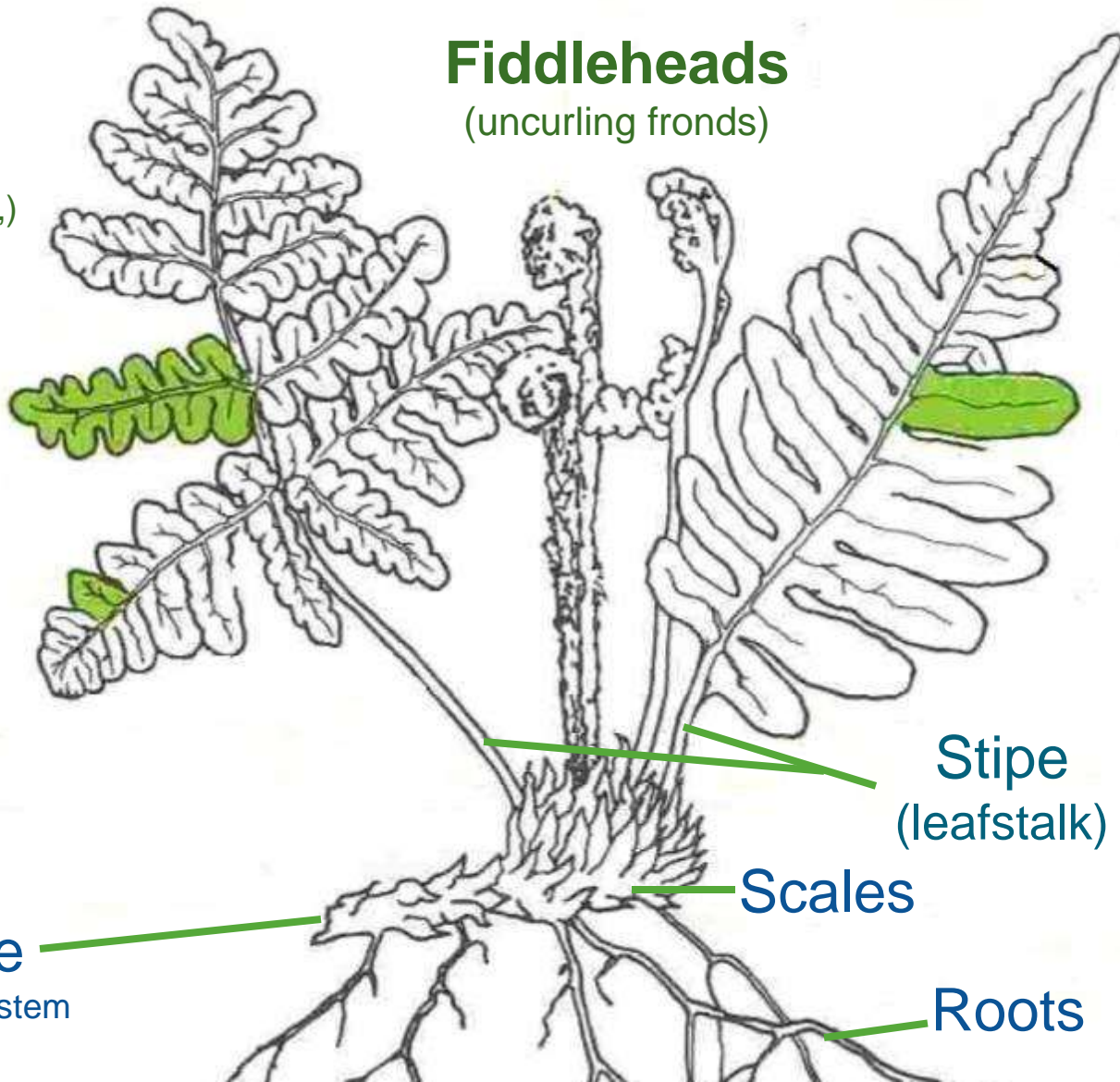
Rhizome

underground stem

Stipe
(leafstalk)

Scales

Roots





Details found on back of fertile leaflets

Sori

(fruit dot)

Sporangia

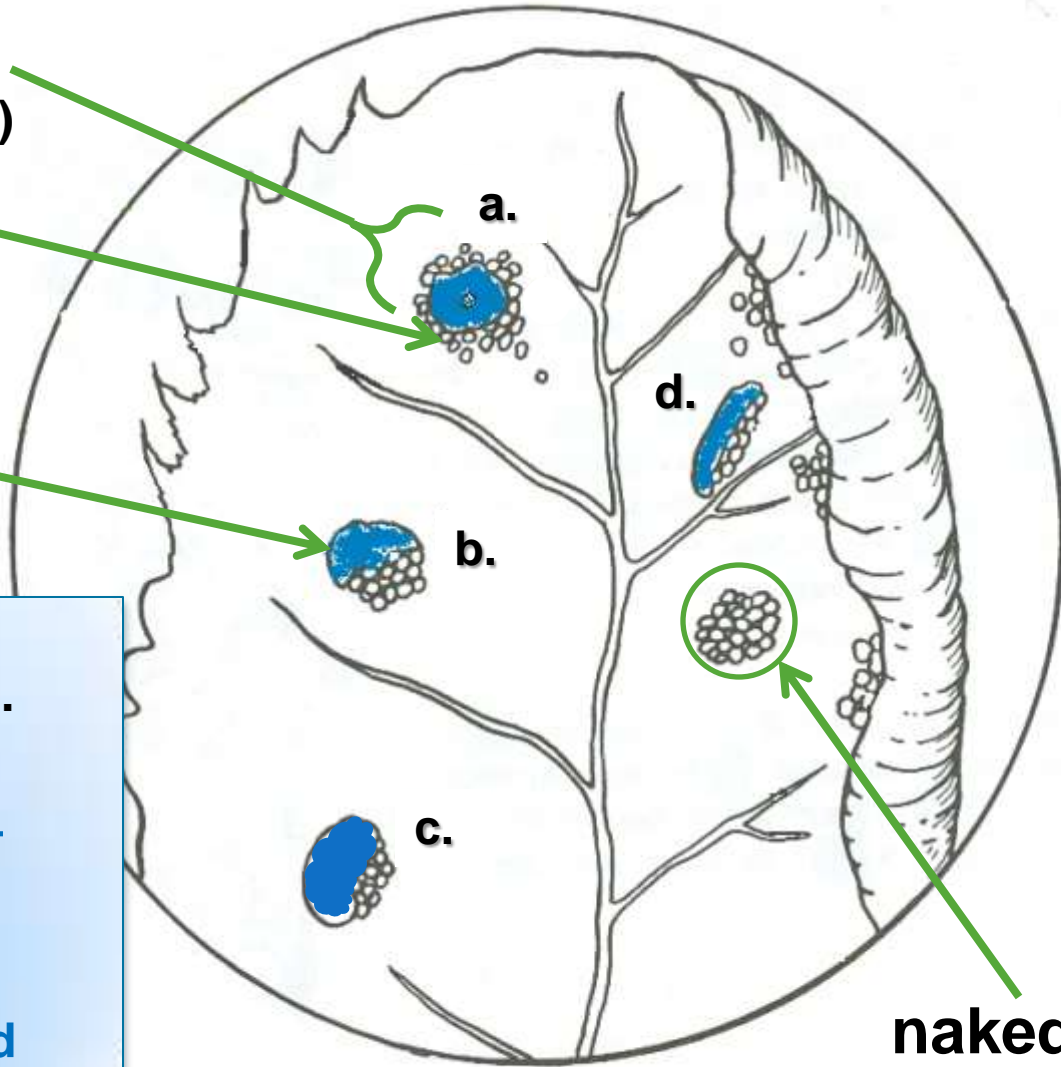
(spore cases)

Indusium

(shield like cover
of a sori)

Sori are clusters of tiny,
spore-bearing sporangia.
Sori fruit dots are often
covered by a membrane:

- a) circular
- b) hooded
- c) horseshoe shaped
- d) worm or link shaped



naked sori
(no membrane)

**Underside of leaflet with many
spore-producing sporangia.**





- **Types of Ferns**

Sword Fern

- Height: 3 - 4 feet
- Individual leaflets of the fronds resemble a sword, giving this fern its name.
- The plants are evergreen and used extensively in flower arrangements.



A close-up photograph of a sword fern frond. The frond is a vibrant green color and has a pinnate structure, with many small, pointed leaflets (pinnae) arranged along a central stem (rachis). The rachis is a brownish, fibrous texture. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a dense forest or garden setting. In the bottom left corner, there is a white rectangular box containing the text "Sword Fern" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Sword Fern



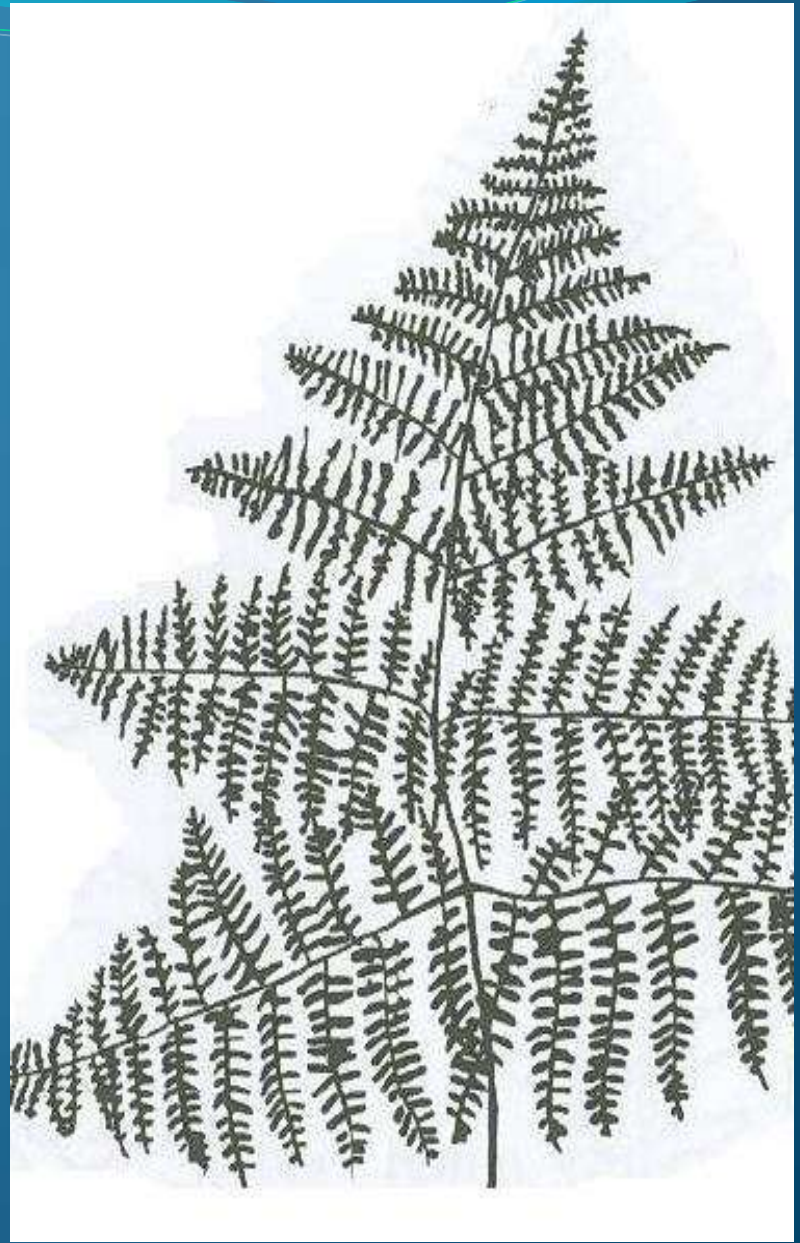
Sword Fern



Sword Fern

Bracken Fern

- Height – 4 to 5 Feet
- **Single stalk..like a tree**
- **Multiple** branching stems and **triangular-shaped fronds**
- Leathery and coarse-textured leaves
- Food source: fiddleheads and rhizomes



Bracken Fern



A photograph of a Bracken Fern (Pteridium aquilinum) in a natural setting. The fern's fronds are bright green and feathery, extending from a central, thin, brownish stalk. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some purple flowers. A white callout box with a black border is positioned on the left side of the image, with a white bracket pointing to the lower part of the fern's stalk. Another white callout box with a black border is on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Bracken Fern'.

Bracken Fern

Stalk base is usually 3 feet before leaflets



Bracken Fern

Licorice Fern

- 1 Foot long and is a sparse fern; doesn't grow in clumps
- The rootstock creeps under thick moss
- Single leaflet grows out from rootstock in the thick moss on tree trunks or rocks
- Roots taste like licorice



A close-up photograph of a tree trunk covered in a thick layer of green moss. Several bright green, feathery fern fronds are growing from the moss. The background is a soft, out-of-focus forest scene with green and brown tones.

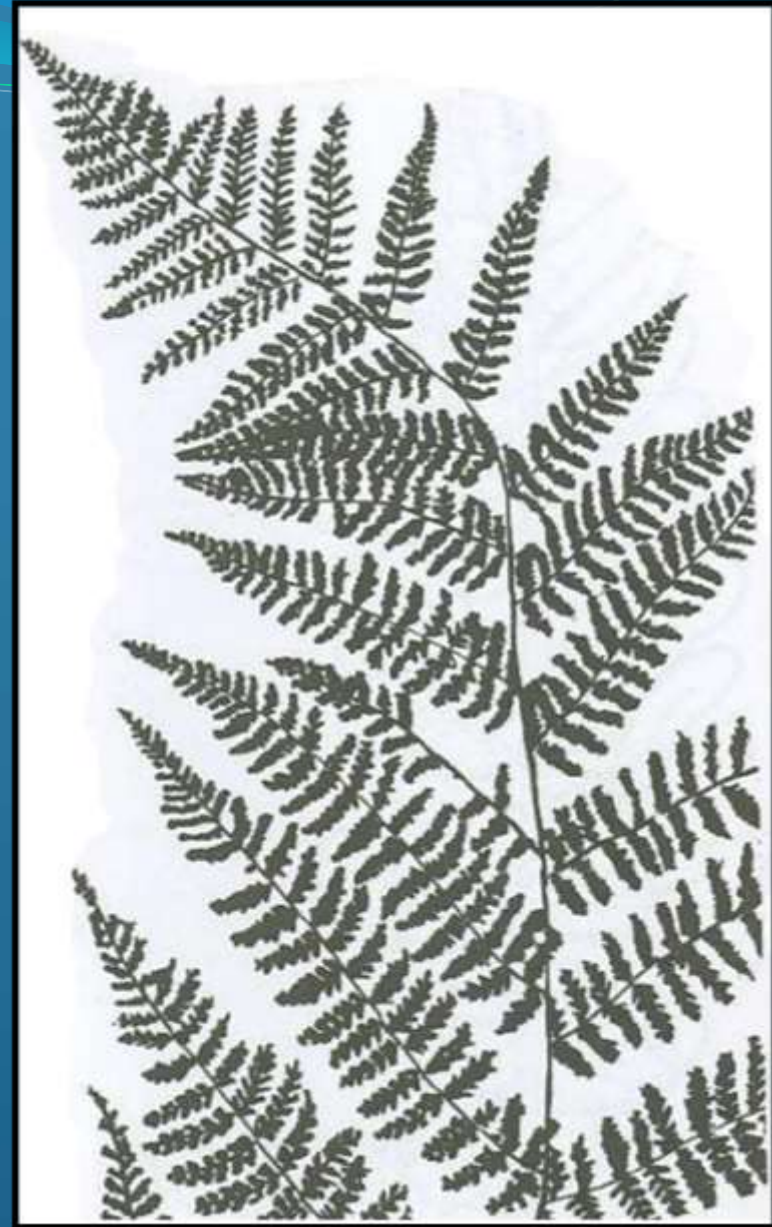
Licorice Fern

A large, ancient-looking tree trunk is the central focus, heavily covered in vibrant green moss and clusters of licorice ferns. The tree's bark is dark and textured, contrasting with the soft, fuzzy texture of the moss. The forest floor is covered in a thick layer of brown, fallen leaves. In the background, other trees are visible, some with bare branches and others with green foliage, suggesting a temperate forest environment. The lighting is soft and diffused, typical of a forest interior.

**Licorice
Fern**

Lady Fern

- Height: **2 - 3** feet
- Large and graceful
Widest at center; tapers at top/bottom..like a football or diamond!
(*A lady's best friend*)
- Grows along streams and in damp shady forest.





Lady Fern



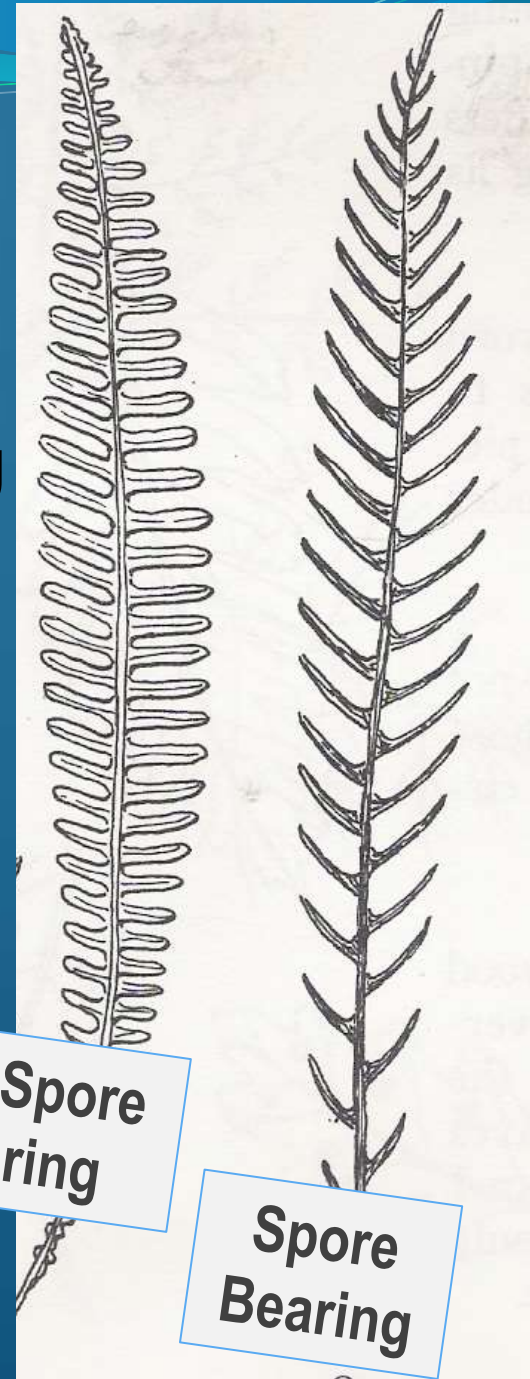
Lady Fern



Lady Fern

Deer Fern

- Height: **2 FEET** and has two distinctive fronds: **fertile** and **non-fertile**
- The fertile (spore-bearing) fronds are long and **narrow**, standing erect. The non-spore-bearing fronds are **thicker** and grow in shorter clusters around them.
- Resembles a head of grain. Fronds taper toward each end. They favor deep, wet forests.
- Deer like to eat these ferns, hence its common name, “deer fern.”





Deer Fern



Deer Fern



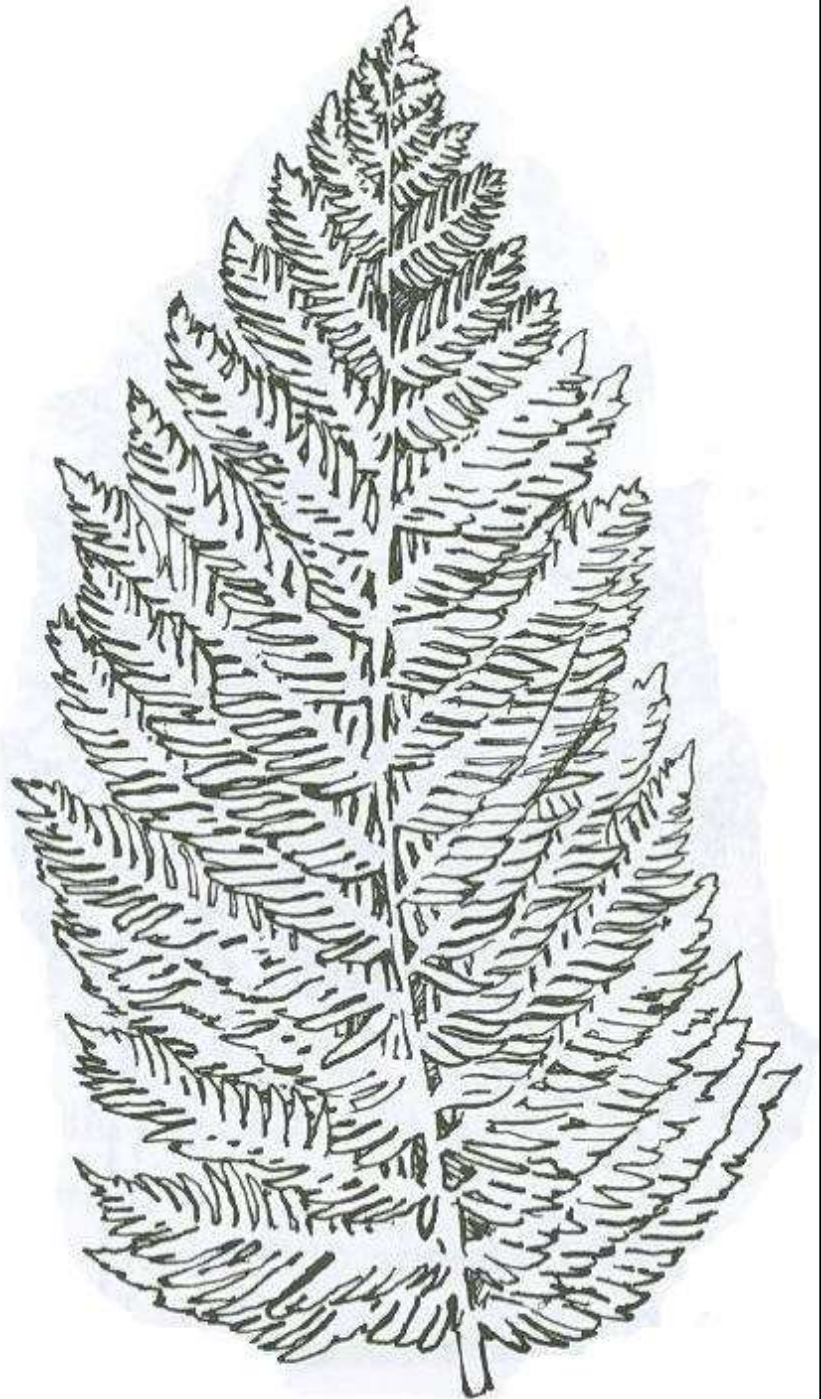
Deer Fern



Deer Fern

Giant Chain Fern

- **Largest American fern (3 – 9 feet tall)**
- **Leaflets spear pointed**
- **Course segments**
- **Used for basket weaving**





Giant Chain Fern



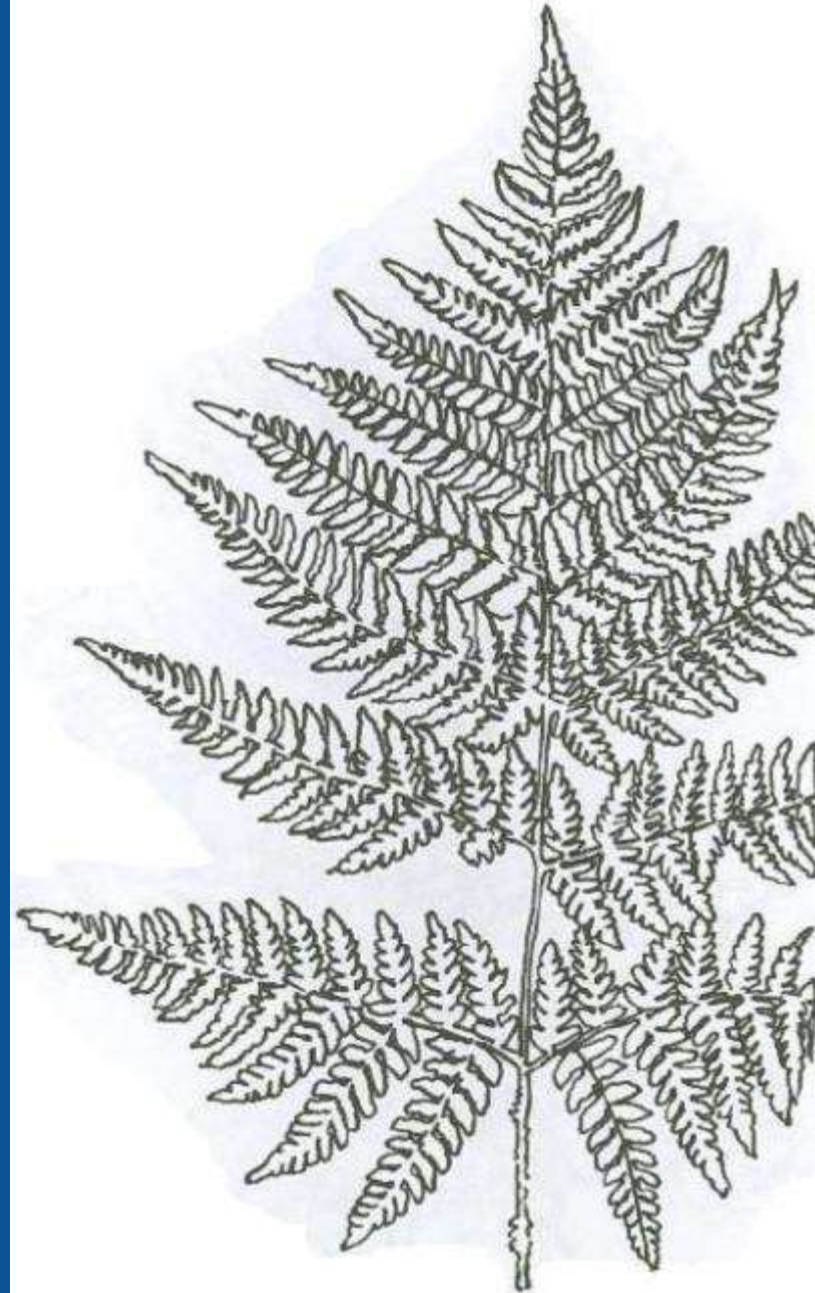
**Sori chained
on leaflets**



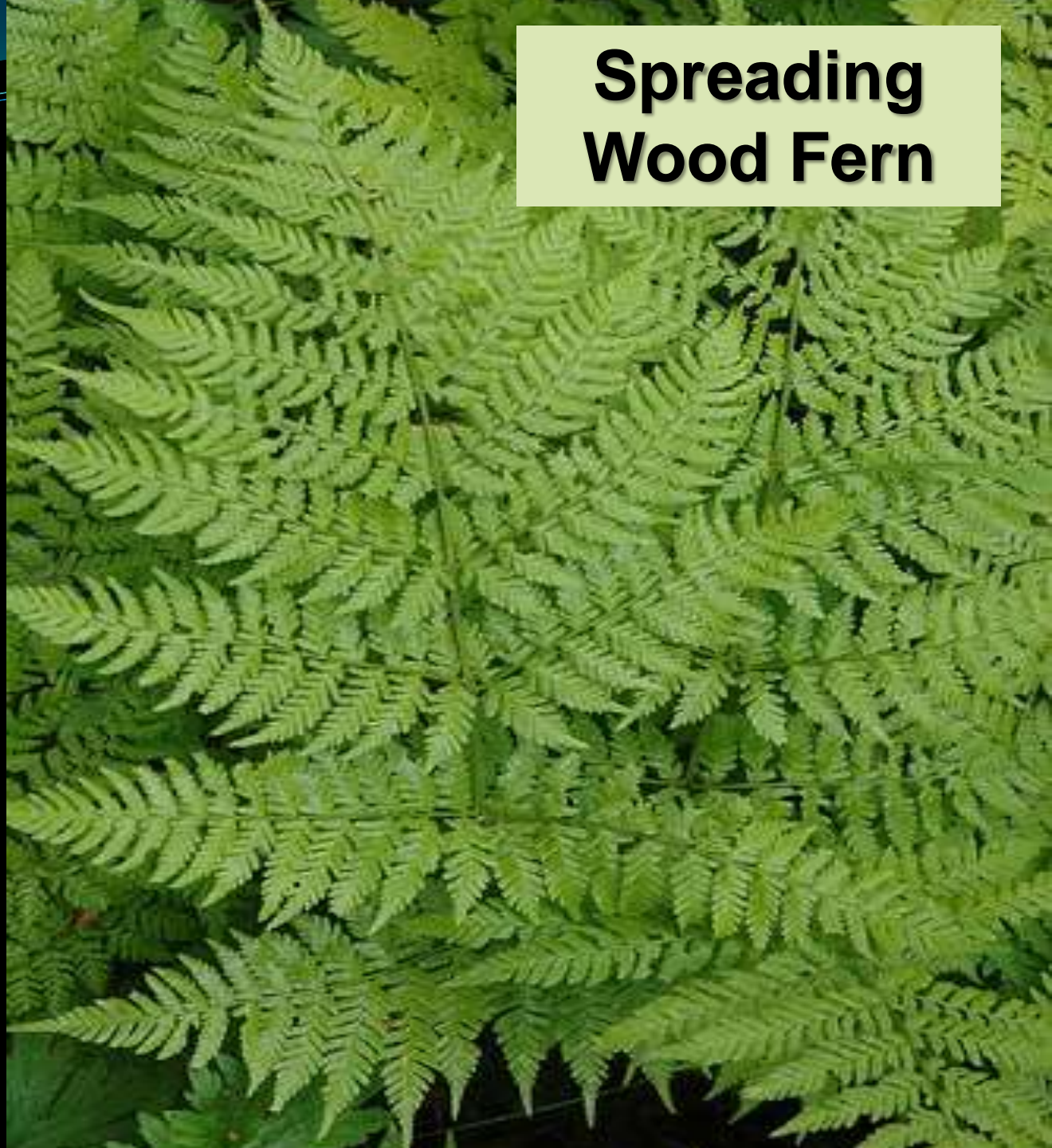
Giant Chain Fern

Spreading Wood Fern

- Height: 2 feet or more
- Fine lacy look
- Lower leaflets are larger; giving the whole leaf a broad-triangular shape

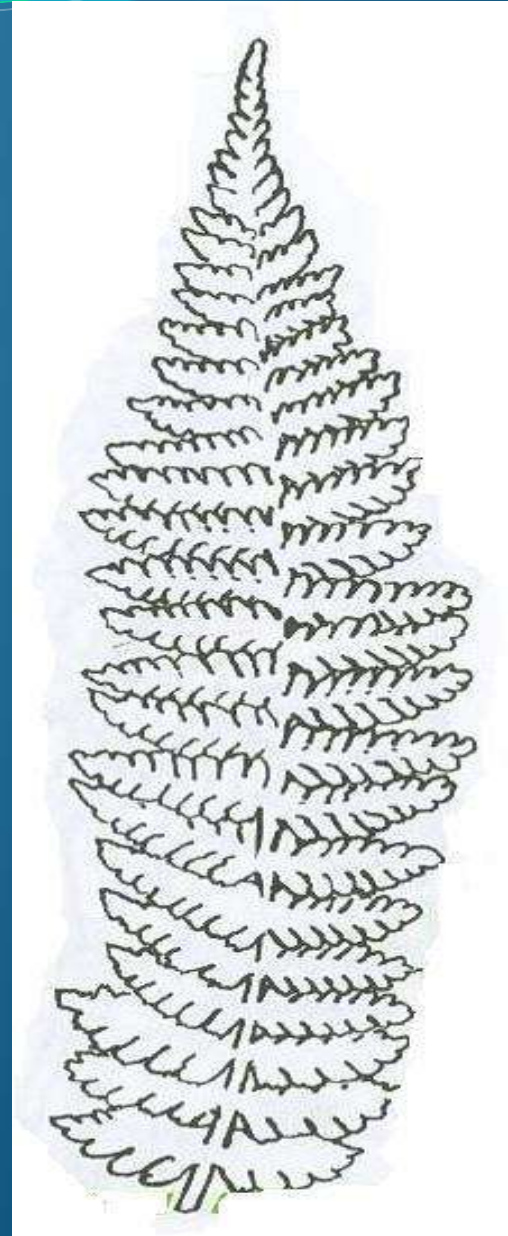


Spreading Wood Fern



Coastal Wood fern

- 1 - 2 feet long in graceful clumps, with ruffled looking leaflets
- Found on steep wooded slopes or on sunny riverbanks along the Pacific Coast.
- Bright green, feels soft





**Coastal
Wood fern**



A photograph of a dense patch of Coastal Wood ferns. The ferns are lush green and have a feathery, bipinnate structure. One central frond is highlighted with a lighter green color, making it stand out from the surrounding darker green foliage. The background consists of dark, moist soil and some fallen leaves.

**Coastal
Wood fern**

Maidenhair Fern



- 1 to 2 feet in height
- The soft and *delicate* fronds **circle** around tops of wiry black stems
- Clusters of fringed leaflets.
- Along riverbanks
- Black stems used in basketry



Maidenhair Fern



Oak Fern



- Small delicate fern – 12 inches tall
- Leaves 2"-7" long by 2"-5" wide
- Divides into 3 triangular leaflets
- Grows in moist cool areas



Oak Fern



Good for delicate ground cover in the shade



Indian Dream Fern



- Small crowded 10” fern
- Leaf blade: triangular composed of many leaflets; pointed tips; on long dark brown stalks
- Grows in rocky areas and native to western NA

Indian Dream Fern





Indian Dream Fern

Shasta Fern

- **Grows in mountainous habitat**
- **Oval leaflets overlapping, appear almost cylindrical**
- **Edges are cut or toothed**
- **Produces several narrow erect lance-shaped stalks**



Shasta Fern



Test Your Memory

A close-up photograph of a sword fern frond. The frond is a vibrant green color and is covered in numerous small, clear water droplets. The frond is composed of many smaller, lanceolate leaflets that are arranged in a regular, repeating pattern along a central stem. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a lush, moist environment. In the bottom right corner, there is a small portion of a brown, textured object, possibly a piece of wood or a different type of plant.

Sword Fern



Licorice Fern



Lady Fern



**Coastal
Wood fern**



Deer Fern



**Giant
Chain Fern**



Sword Fern



Bracken Fern



Spreading Wood Fern



Maidenhair Fern



Shasta Fern



Oak Fern



Lady Fern



Deer Fern



Licorice Fern

Bracken Fern



Indian Dream Fern





The End