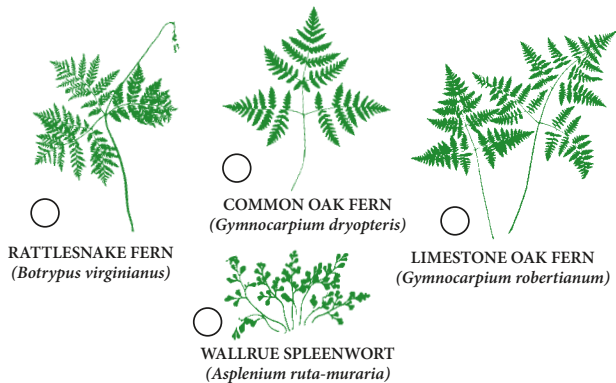
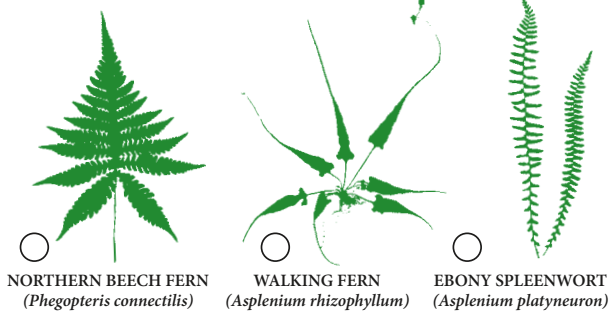
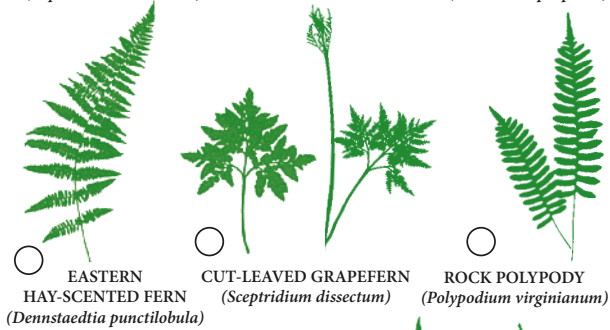
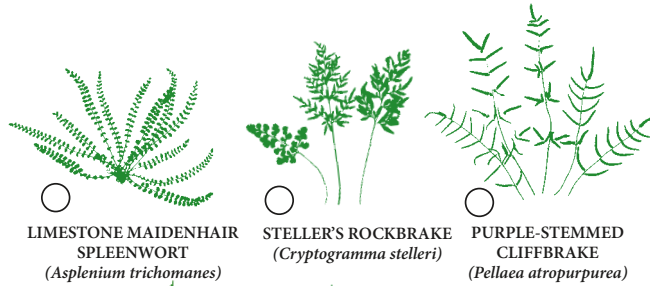
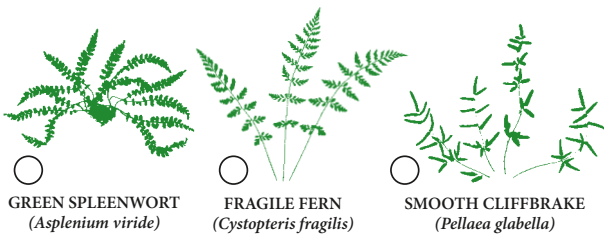


Bruce and Grey Fern Checklist



Bruce and Grey Counties contain a wide range of habitats which support an extraordinary diversity of ferns. Together they are home to 59 fern species, of which nine are hybrids. This represents 70% of the species found in Ontario. Ferns can be found in forests, wetlands, crevices, fields, along trails and on rock faces. This checklist illustrates 39 ferns and has been updated to reflect recent name changes.

Many ferns favour the calcium-rich dolostone of the Niagara Escarpment. There are excellent opportunities to view many species of ferns along the Bruce Trail and in locations such as Inglis Falls Conservation Area, Hope Bay Forest Provincial Nature Reserve, Bayview Escarpment Provincial Nature Reserve, Massie Hills Management Area, the Nels Maher Side Trail on Kemble Mountain, and Bruce's Caves Conservation Area near Oxenden. Parking fees may apply.

Ferns are an ancient form of life. They have been around for about 360 million years. Royal, Interrupted and Cinnamon Ferns have been on earth since the time of the dinosaurs! Ferns lack flowers and seeds, and reproduce through spores. Some also reproduce vegetatively. Spores are produced in small structures called sporangia which are often grouped together in sori.

The first indicator for identifying the species of fern is the overall shape. About 15 ferns, including Walking, Sensitive, American Hart's-tongue, and Northern Maidenhair are easily identified by shape. Several species of ferns are evergreen; you can look for them even in winter. These include Polypody, Walking, Christmas, and Crested Wood Ferns.

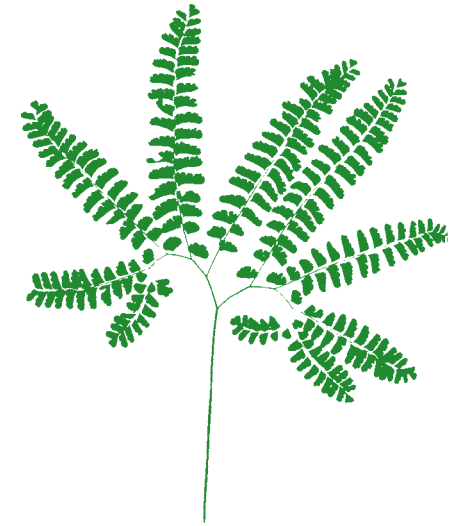
The Bruce Trail is an excellent place to spot our club's logo, American Hart's-tongue Fern. This fern is uncommon on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula, rare in Bruce, and common in Grey. Look for it on shady boulders along the Niagara Escarpment. Another unique fern is Walking Fern. It prefers cool dolostone outcroppings. Its triangular shape is distinctive; and similar to a strawberry runner, the tip can root and start a new plant.

The prints in this checklist were made by the late Nels Maher, a printer by trade and a renowned local naturalist. Nels had an in-depth knowledge of ferns, orchids, and fungi. He and his wife Jean, a teacher, were advocates for interpreting all facets of nature in Bruce and Grey. They led outings, wrote articles, and contributed to several OSFN publications, including the original *Ferns of Grey & Bruce*. At the family farm near Durham, Nels and Jean developed a fern garden, which is lovingly maintained by children and grandchildren.

This checklist is a quick reference to ferns in Bruce and Grey. More detailed information about ferns and how to identify them will be found in the new edition of *Ferns Bruce & Grey*. The OSFN is updating this guide book thanks to a generous donation by the Maher family in memory of Nels and Jean.

owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca

Fern Checklist



The OSFN advocate for and nurture the appreciation, understanding and conservation of our natural world.

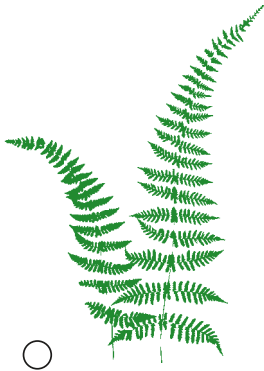
Knowing Nature Better

For further information about our club visit
owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca

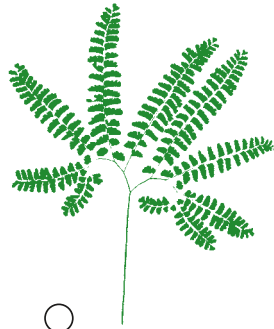


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BULBLET BLADDER FERN
(*Cystopteris bulbifera*)



NORTHERN MAIDENHAIR FERN
(*Adiantum pedatum*)



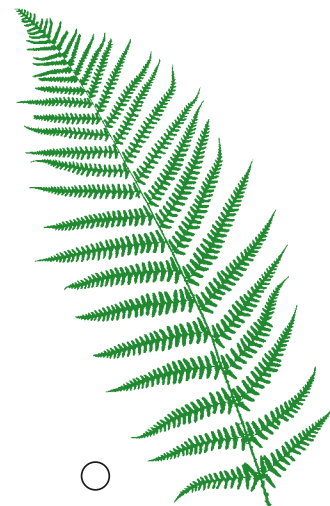
CRESTED WOOD FERN
(*Dryopteris cristata*)



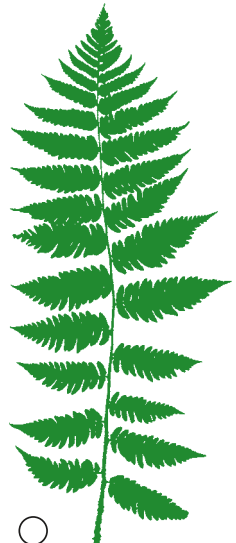
L: SPINULOSE WOOD FERN
(*Dryopteris carthusiana*)
R: EVERGREEN WOOD FERN
(*Dryopteris intermedia*)



MARGINAL WOOD FERN
(*Dryopteris marginalis*)



MALE FERN
(*Dryopteris filix-mas*)



GOLDIE'S WOOD FERN
(*Dryopteris goldieana*)



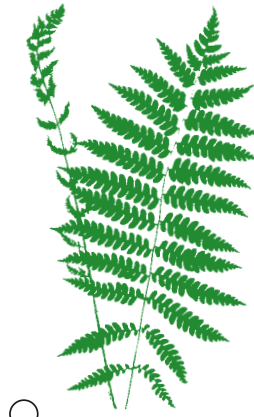
AMERICAN HART'S-TONGUE FERN
(*Asplenium scolopendrium*)



OSTRICH FERN
(*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)



ROYAL FERN
(*Osmunda regalis*)



CINNAMON FERN
(*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*)



INTERRUPTED FERN
(*Claytosmunda claytoniana*)



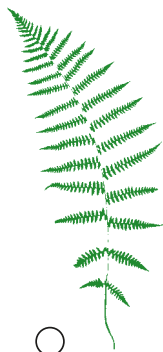
BRACKEN FERN
(*Pteridium aquilinum*)



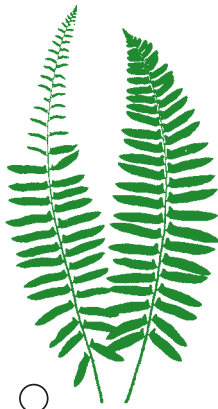
SENSITIVE FERN
(*Onoclea sensibilis*)



NEW YORK FERN
(*Parathypteris noveboracensis*)



MARSH FERN
(*Thelypteris palustris*)



CHRISTMAS FERN
(*Polystichum acrostichoides*)



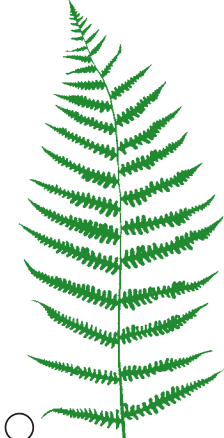
NORTHERN HOLLY FERN
(*Polystichum lonchitis*)



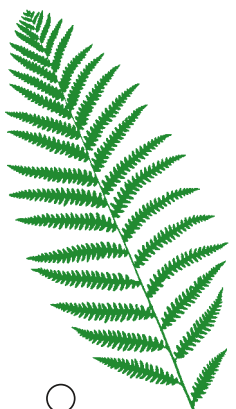
NORTHEASTERN LADY FERN
(*Athyrium filix-femina*)



NARROW-LEAVED GLADE FERN
(*Homalosorus pycnocarpus*)



SILVERY SPLEENWORT
(*Deparia acrostichoides*)



VIRGINIA CHAIN FERN
(*Anchistea virginica*)