

HANDOUT FOR ONLINE FERNS COURSE

Black spleenwort	<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Pointed fronds	Black lower stem	Linear sori
Wall-rue	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Bushy	Green stems	Diamond-shaped pinnules
Maidenhair spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Black stems	Round oblong leaves	
Hart's-tongue	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Undivided fronds	Linear sori	
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Lobed pinnules	Scaly stem base	Robust
Scaly male-fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Unlobed pinnules	Dark mark at base of pinnae	Long firm fronds
Broad buckler-fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	3-pinnate	Dark groove along stem	Scales with central brown streak
Soft shield fern	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Loose fronds	Prominent thumb	Base of pinnule runs along stem
Hard shield fern	<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	Stiff fronds	Frond narrow at base	Base of pinnule points away from stem
Lady-fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	3-pinnate	Light green and delicate	Deeply cut pinnules
Lemon-scented fern	<i>Oreopteris limbosperma</i>	White scales	Frond abruptly narrow at base	Pinna unfurl laterally
Hard-fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Sterile fronds 1-pinnate	Fertile fronds narrow-lobed	Linear sori
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Separate white fertile cones, appearing first	Unbranched hollow and ridged stems	Lowest bract segment > stem segment
Water horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Hollow stems	Cones on green stems	
Marsh horsetail	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Cones on green shoots, which are not hollow	Sheath teeth with translucent margins	Lowest bract segment < stem segment
Polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Pinnae blunt tipped with unserrated leaves	Fronds parallel sided	Circular sori
Intermediate polypody	<i>Polypodium interjectum</i>	Pinnae slightly pointed and can be serrated	Fronds slightly oval	Sori slightly oval
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Single stems from ground	Forms dense patches	Feathery but stiff fronds
Southern adder's-tongue	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Single unlobed frond	Fertile spike like snake's tongue	