



The Ferns of Elarra



Birds Foot Fern

Palaeandromedae folia

This small (~9 ") scrubby fern lives up in the chaparral. It is commonly found along the Vineyard Trail and around Sharon Meadows.

Under a magnifying glass (inset) you can see **tiny points on the leaves (called mucros)**



Golden Back Fern

Pityrogramma triangularis

This **small (~3") triangular** fern lives up in the chaparral. It is commonly found in conjunction with the Birds Foot Fern along the Vineyard Trail and around Sharon Meadows.

The undersides of the leaves get a **golden color** as they age



Western Bracken Fern

Pteridium aquilinum

This **large (~3') triangular fern** lives up in the **pine forests**. It is commonly found along the well road and other dry forest areas.



Coffee Fern

Palaeandromedae folia

This small (~1') fern lives in the riparian forest. It has **rounded leaves** and a **coffee colored stem**. Look for it along Weeping Rocks and the Elevator Shaft.

Under a magnifying glass you won't see any mucros (see Birds Foot Fern)



Coastal Wood Fern

Dryopteris arguta

This **1 to 3 foot** fern lives in the riparian forest. This particular shot was taken near the spring.

The spores make a distinct side by side pattern on the leaflets



California Lace Fern

Aspidotis californica

This small (~6") fern is found around rocky areas in the riparian forest. Look for it on the weeping rocks trail just as you approach the first set of weeping rocks.

The fern has **black stems**. It is a bit like the Golden Back Fern, but is larger and **lives in moist environments**.

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Giant Chain Fern

Woodwardia fimbriata

These can get quite large (~6'). You can find these ferns along Hooker Creek and beside the spring. The spore pattern consists of parallel **oblong** tracks on each leaflet.



California Polypody

Polypodium californicum

This fern grows down by the Hooker Creek. You will generally find it growing out of moss covered rocks. It is all over both waterfall areas. To identify it, look for the **parallel circular spore tufts** under the leaflets



California Shield Fern

Polystichum californicum

This fern grows on the Elevator Shaft. Look for the **small leaflets on lower leaves only**, with prolific **round spore tufts** and **hairy stems**. (see inset)

It is similar to the coastal wood fern, look for the hairy stems



Sword Fern

Polystichum munitum

This fern grows down by the Hooker Creek. This is larger than the California Polypody, and grows in clumps. Note the spore tufts are small and occasionally track into **3 rows**.



Five Finger Fern

Adiantum pedatum

There are a bunch of these growing near the base of the waterfall on Hooker Creek

The Indians used this plant in preparing an ointment for inflammation of the skin. (We haven't tried this)



Common Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum capillus-veneris

This was found right below a group of five finger ferns near the waterfall on Hooker Creek. The leaf pattern is very distinct compared with the Maidenhair Fern.



California Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum jordani

You can see these on the way to Sharon Meadows before you leave the forest, and along the Hooker creek Trail.

Note the leaves of the California variety are rounded where the leaves of the Common are notched a bit long the curved edges.