

Sedges and Ferns

Ferns typically thrive in shady locations. Most prefer medium soil moisture and cannot tolerate dry soils. Please see “Mesic soil and shade” below.

Sedges are perennial, grass-like herbaceous plants that grow in clumps and usually, but not always, prefer moist soils. They have triangular stems and spiked inflorescences. There are hundreds of species in many sizes.

Sedges for wet soil and sun:

<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	Long-bracted tussock sedge/Water sedge
<i>Carex frankii</i>	Bristly cattail sedge
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Common bur sedge
<i>Carex lupulina</i>	Common hop sedge
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Swamp oval sedge/Palm sedge
<i>Carex pellita</i>	Broad-leaved woolly sedge
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Common tussock sedge
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Brown fox sedge

Sedges for mesic soil and shade:

<i>Carex blanda</i>	Common wood sedge (weedy, but relatively quick cover)
<i>Carex plantaginea</i>	Plantain-leaved sedge
<i>Carex spengelii</i>	Long-beaked sedge

Sedges for dry soil and shade:

<i>Carex gracillima</i>	Purple-sheathed graceful sedge
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Common oak sedge/Pen sedge
<i>Carex rosea</i>	Curly-styled wood sedge
<i>Carex swanii</i>	Downy green sedge (very fine, low-growing)

Ferns for Mesic soil and shade:

<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair fern
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady fern
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal shield fern/Leatherwood fern
<i>Dryopteris spinulosa</i>	Spinulose shield fern
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich fern
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive fern
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon fern
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted fern
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal fern
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern

