

Checklist of Native Ferns and Relatives at Reynolds Preserve, Morrow, GA, in Taxonomic Order

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Note: Ferns are spore-producing vascular plants which have underground stems and roots with leaves (*fronds*) that are above ground. Leaves are frequently compound and divided into leaflets (*pinnae*). Spores are generally borne on the backs of leaflets although some species have separate vegetative and spore-producing leaves. Most of these can be found in Crooked Creek Forest.

Ground Cedar, Clubmoss, *Lycopodium sp.* possibly *flabelliforme*, a “fern relative” or lower vascular plant—present but rare at Reynolds, has not been found in Crooked Creek Forest

Rattlesnake Fern, *Botrychium virginianum*, occurs as individual plants rather than in clusters

Cinnamon Fern, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, large fern with separate spore-bearing leaves, infrequent at Reynolds

Royal Fern, *Osmunda regalis*, large fern with separate spore-bearing leaves, infrequent

Sensitive Fern, *Onclea sensibilis*, has separate spore-bearing leaves

Christmas Fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, evergreen fern, occurs throughout the preserve during all seasons, usually only fern present in winter, spores on upper third of leaflets

Broad Beech Fern, *Dryopteris hexagonoptera*, infrequent at Reynolds

New York Fern/ Tapering Fern, *Dryopteris noveboracensis*, rare at the preserve

Lady Fern, *Athyrium asplenoides*, occurs throughout the preserve during all seasons except winter, most abundant fern along Crooked Creek Trail, spores on back of leaves

Ebony Spleenwort, *Asplenium platyneuron*, infrequent, spores on backs of leaves

Chain Fern, *Woodwardia virginica/ Lorinseria areolate*, spores in chain-like sporangium on separate reproductive leaves

Bracken Fern, *Pteridium aquilinum*, fern with 2x compound leaves (leaflets divided into sub-leaflets), occurs in several sunny areas at the preserve

Resurrection Fern, *Polypodium polypodioides*, occurs attached to trees and logs, common at Reynolds, spores on backs of leaves

Want to add to or correct this list? Contact helenbotany@aol.com

Source for identification of most on this list—*Ferns of Georgia*, 1951 and 1968, by McVaugh and Pyron.



Lady Fern: (Athyrium asplenoides)



Resurrection Fern- Polypodium polypodioides



Bracken Fern- (Pteridium aquilinum)
Notice the spores located on the underside of each leaflet.



Holly Fern: Non- Native in front of the Nature Center .