



Northwest Ferns



Chuckanut Drive Fern Fossil 50 mya



Contents

- Fern parts
- Sword Fern
- Licorice Fern
- Deer Fern
- Maidenhair Fern
- Lady Fern
- Spiny Wood Fern
- Oak Fern
- Bracken Fern
- Parsley Fern
- Fragile Fern
- Review

Parts of a Fern

Fron

(twice divided leaflet or twice pinnately compound,)

Fiddleheads

(uncurling fronds)

Fron

(Leaf)

(once divided or pinnate)

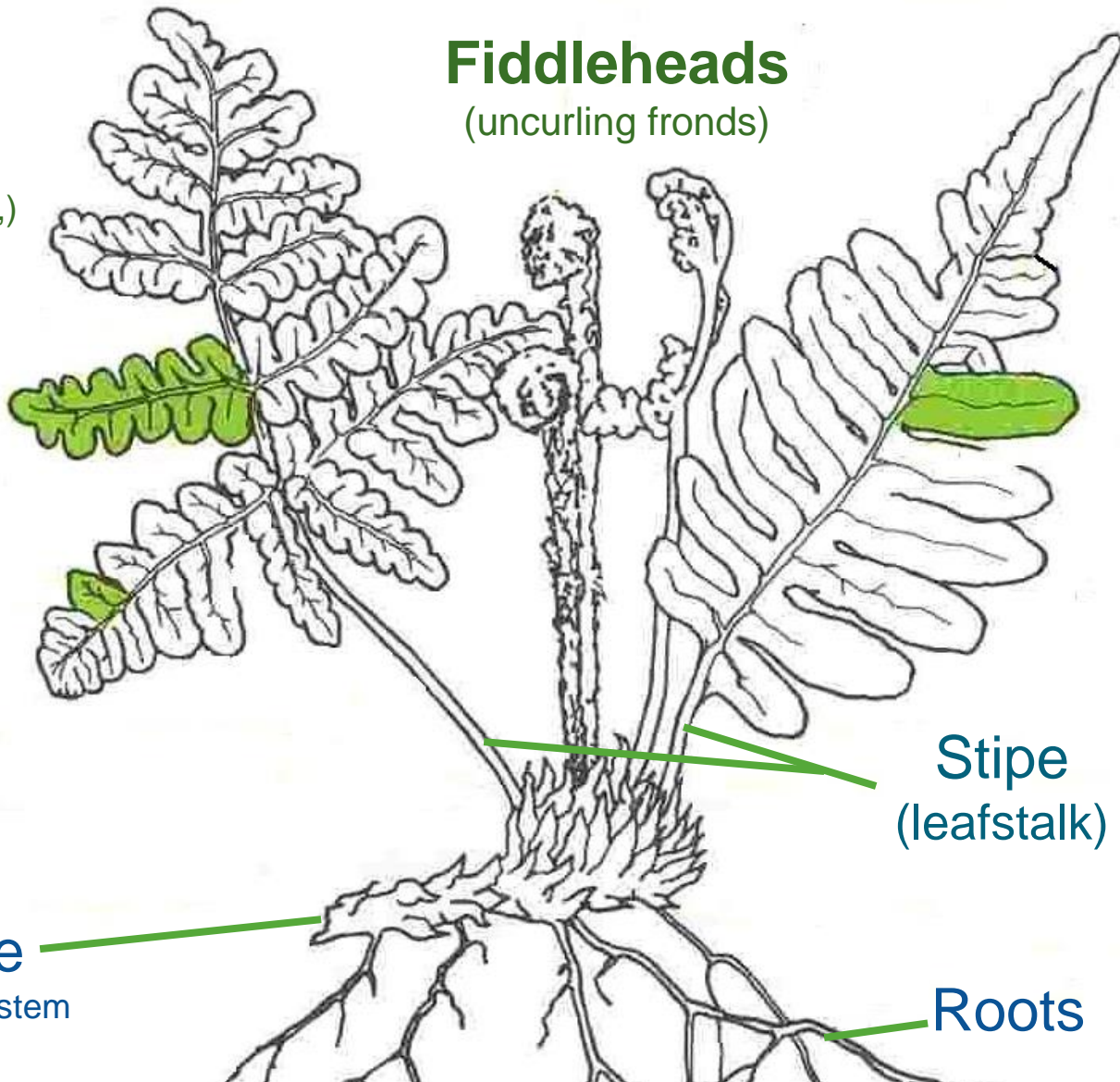
Stipe

(leafstalk)

Rhizome

underground stem

Roots



Parts of a Fern – Whitney & Sandelin Field Guide to the Cascades & Olympics

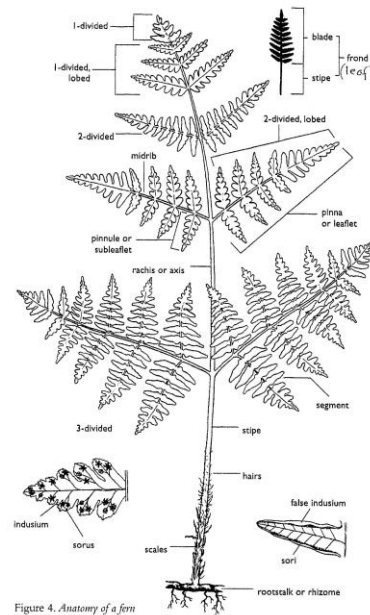
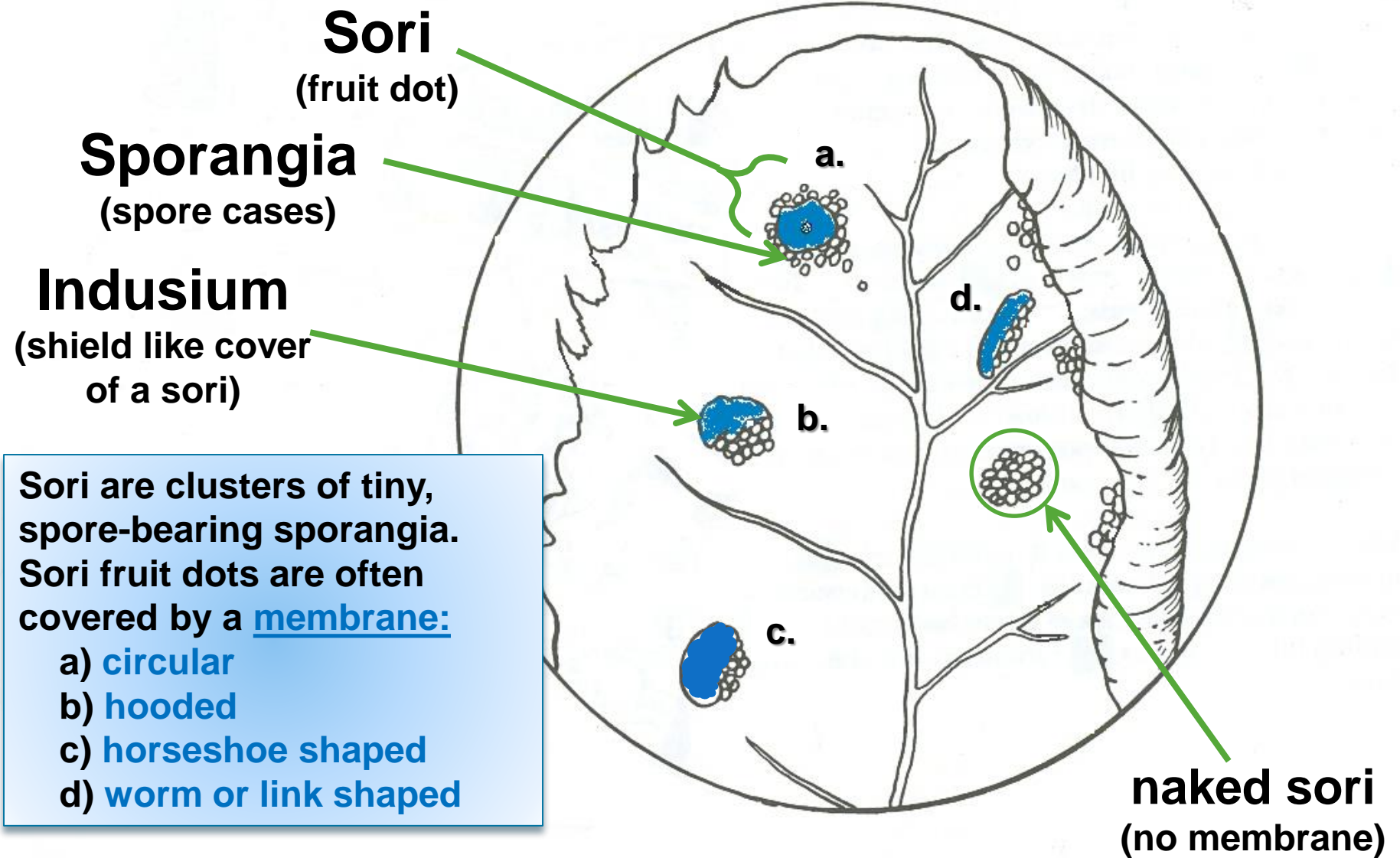


Figure 4. Anatomy of a fern

Details found on back of fertile leaflets

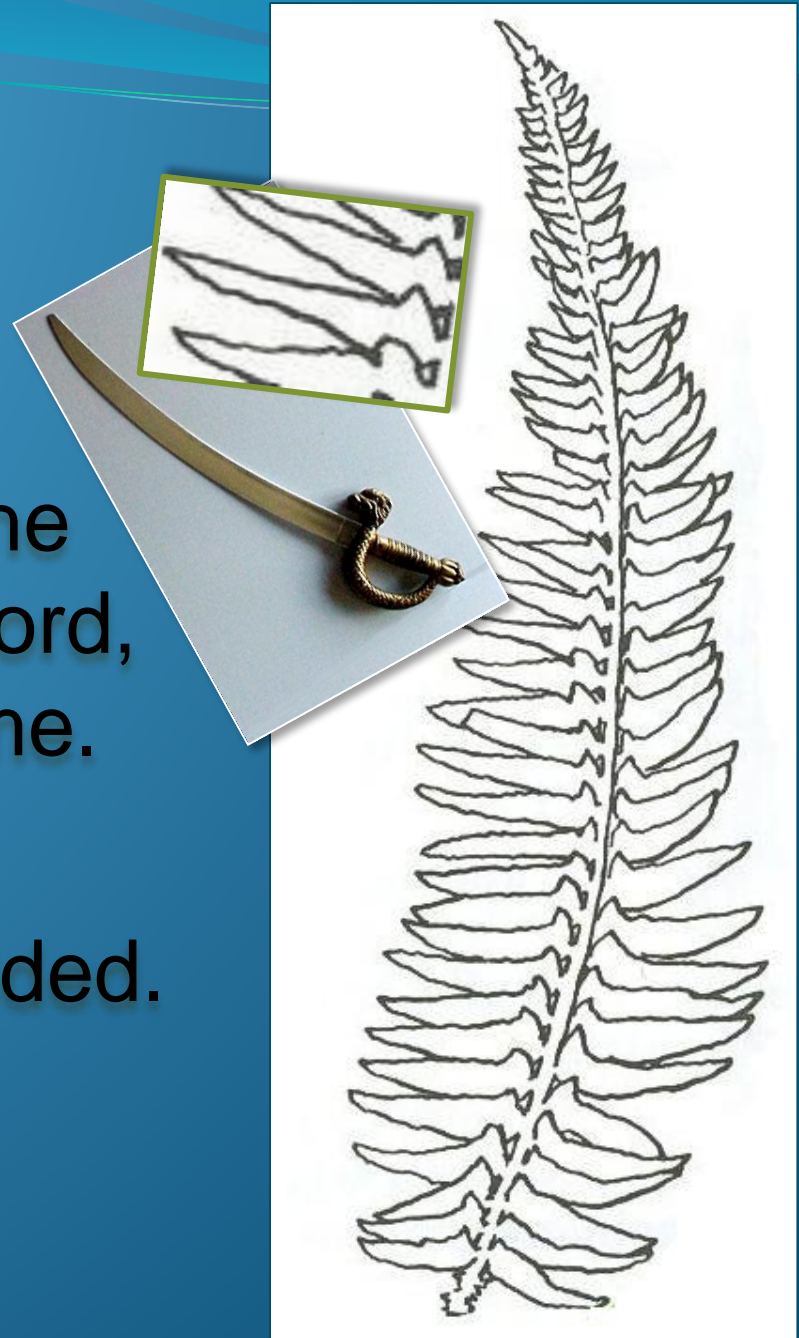


Underside of leaflet with many
spore-producing sporangia.



Sword Fern

- Height: 3 - 4 feet
- Individual leaflets of the fronds resemble a sword, giving this fern its name.
- Evergreen . Once divided.





Sword Fern-
Polystichum munitum



Sword Fern

Licorice Fern

- 1 Foot long, a sparse fern; doesn't grow in clumps
- Single leaflet grows out from rootstock in the thick moss on tree trunks or rocks
- Roots taste like licorice
- Evergreen. Once divided.



A large tree trunk and branches are covered in a thick layer of green moss and Licorice Fern (Polypodium glycyrrhiza). The ferns are growing in clusters on the mossy surfaces. The background shows a forest with many thin tree trunks and some evergreen trees. The ground is covered with brown leaves.

Licorice Fern-

Polypodium glycyrrhiza

A close-up photograph of a tree trunk covered in thick, green moss. Several bright green, feathery fern fronds are growing from the moss, some extending horizontally and others slightly drooping. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a forest setting.

**Licorice
Fern**

Deer Fern

- Height: **2 FEET** and has two distinctive fronds: **fertile** and **non-fertile**. **Evergreen. Once divided.**
- The fertile (spore-bearing) fronds are long and **narrow**, standing erect with dark purple-black stipes. The non-spore-bearing fronds are **thicker** and grow in shorter clusters around them.
- Fronds taper toward each end. They favor deep, wet forests.
- Deer like to eat these ferns.





Deer Fern

Blechnum spicant



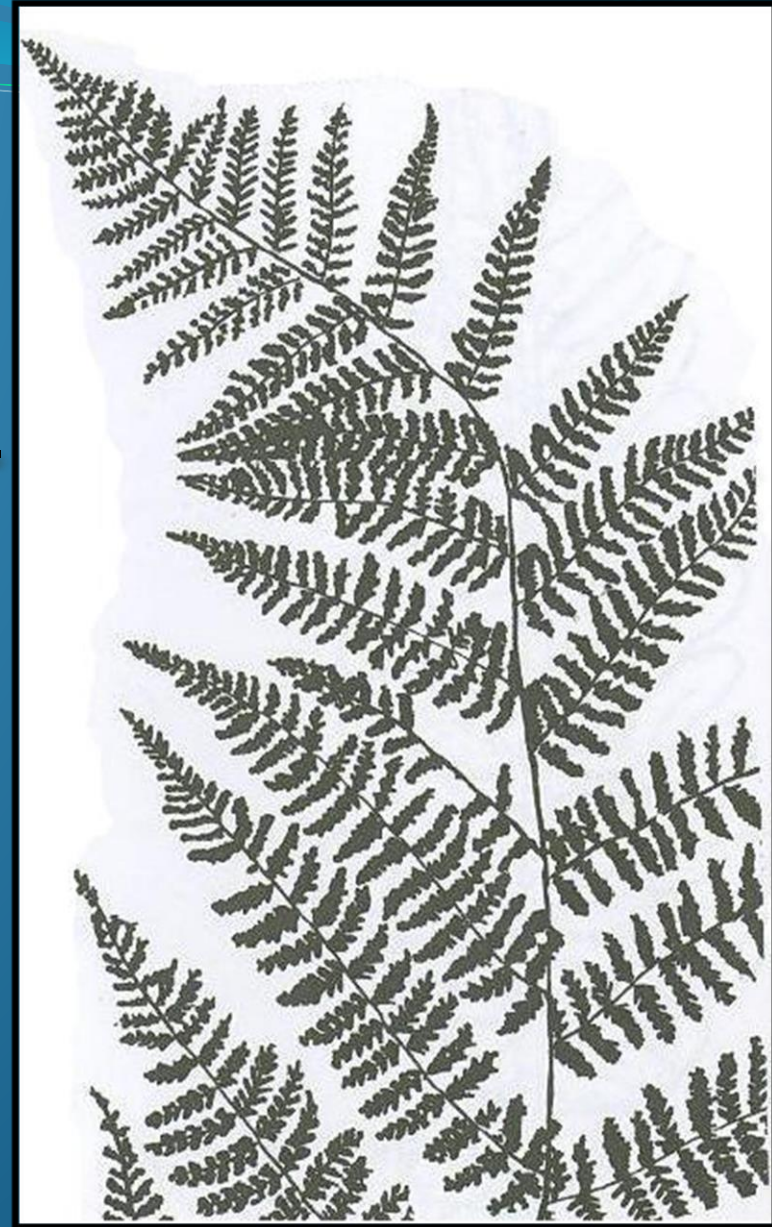
Deer Fern

Lady Fern

- Height: **2 - 3** feet
- Large, graceful, light yellow-green
Widest at center; tapers at top/bottom..like a diamond
- Grows along streams and in damp shady forest.



2-3 times divided






Lady Fern

**Athyrium filix-
femina**



Lady Fern

Spreading Wood Fern

- Height: 2 feet or more
- Fine lacy look. 3X divided
- Lower leaflets are larger with an asymmetric lower half.  Whole leaf has a broadly triangular shape





Spreading Wood Fern

Dryopteris expansa

Oak Fern



- Small delicate fern – 12 inches tall, 2-3X divided. 3 triangular leaflets
- Leaves 2"-7" long by 2"-5" wide
- Grows in moist cool areas

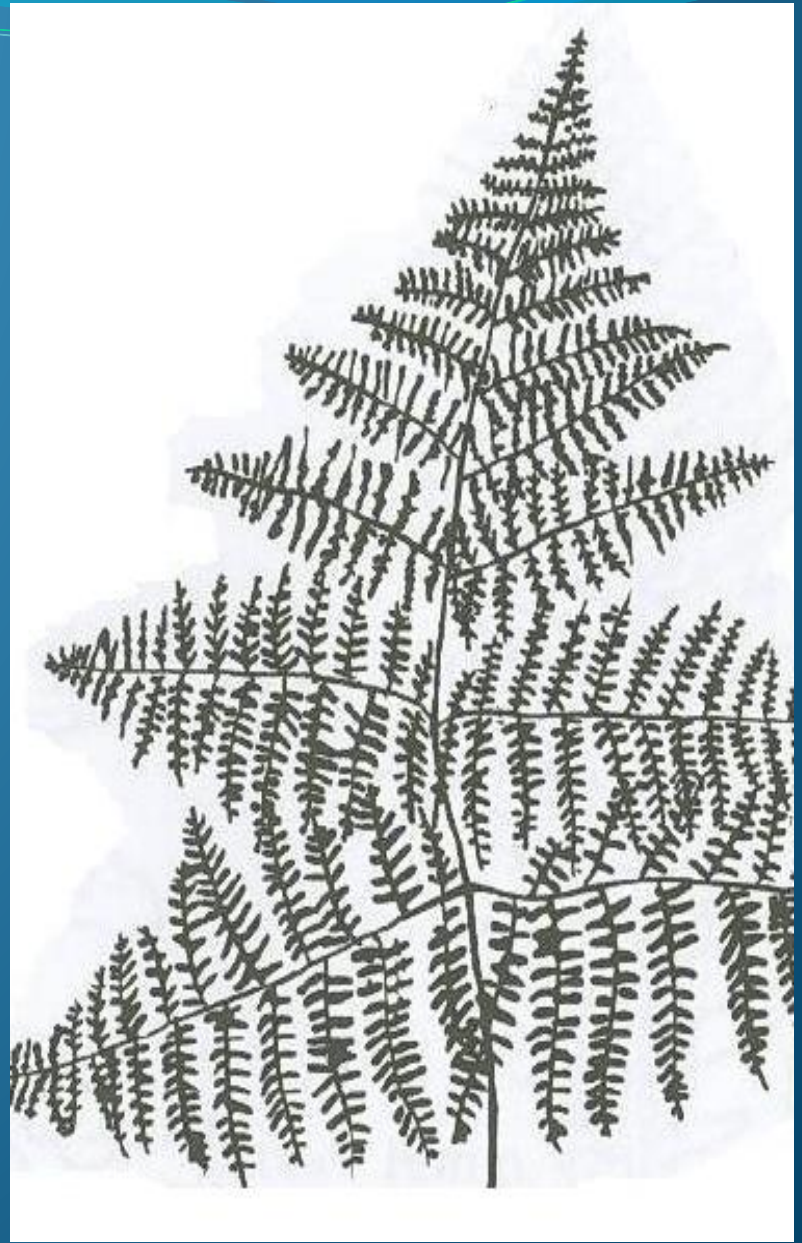


Oak Fern
Gymnocarpum
dryopteris



Bracken Fern

- Height – 4 to 5 Feet. 2-3X divided
- **Single stalk..like a tree**
- **Multiple** branching stems and **triangular-shaped fronds**
- Leathery and coarse-textured leaves
- Often found in disturbed areas



Bracken Fern

Pteridium aquilinum



A photograph of a Bracken Fern (Pteridium aquilinum) in a natural setting. The fern's fronds are bright green and feathery, extending from a central, thin, brown stalk. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some purple flowers. A white callout box with a black border is positioned on the left side of the image, with a white bracket pointing to the base of the fern's stalk. Another white callout box with a black border is on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Bracken Fern'.

Bracken Fern

Stalk base is usually 3 feet before leaflets

Maidenhair Fern



- 1 to 2 feet in height
- The soft and *delicate* fronds **circle** around tops of wiry black stems
- Palmately branched, black stems
- Along riverbanks
- Black stems used in basketry



Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum

Parsley Fern

- Has different sterile and fertile fronds
- (dimorphic)
- Evergreen sterile leaves
- 3 X divided
- Dry rocky sites, crevices, ledges, talus

Parsley Fern



Bud Kovalchik

Parsley Fern – *Cryptogramma crispera*



Fragile Fern

- Delicate, small
- 2-3 times divided
- Rocky areas, crevices, ledges, talus slopes
- Blades taper at both ends

Fragile Fern



Fragile Fern – *Cystopteris fragilis*



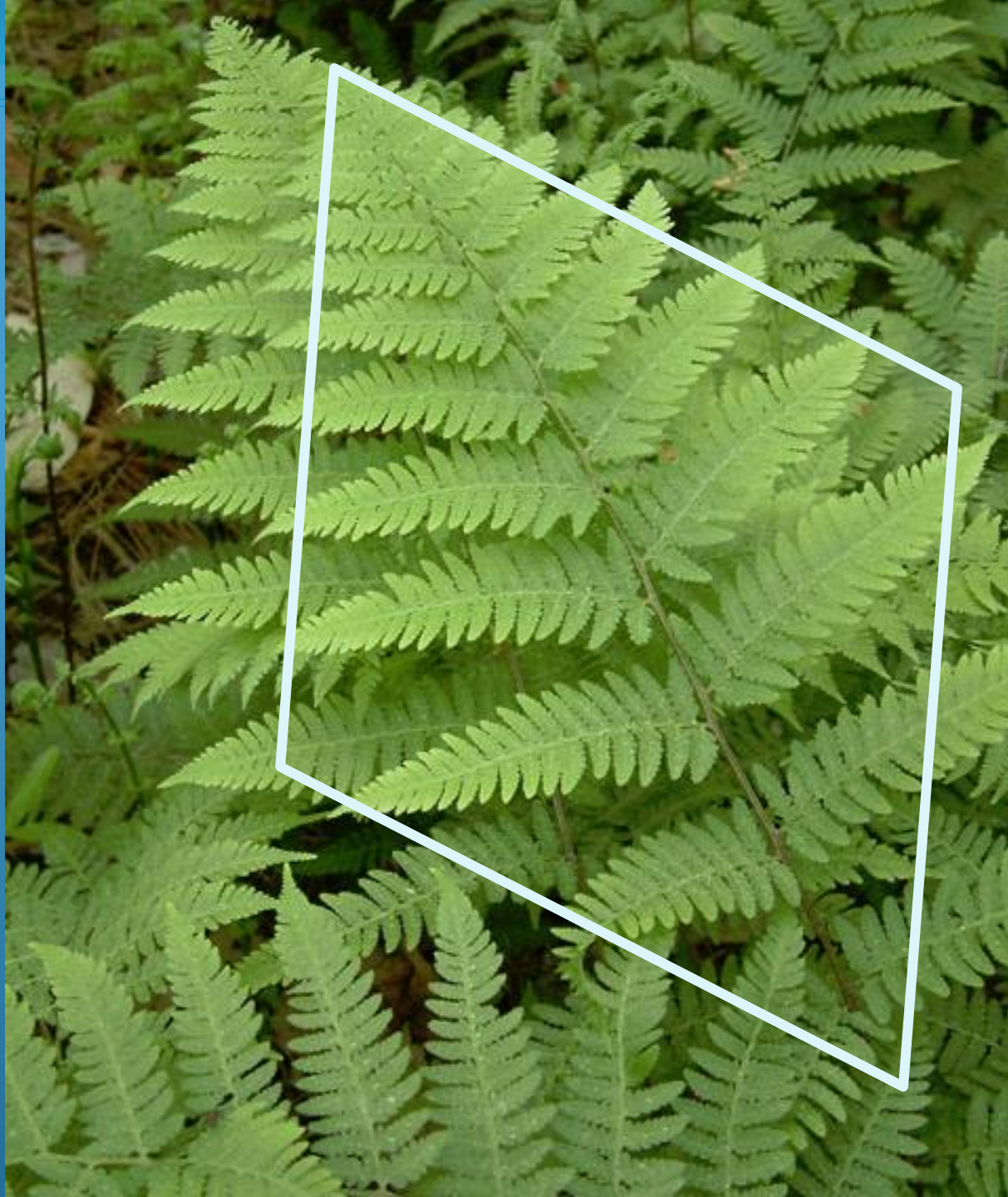


Test Your Memory























The End