



Northwest Ferns

Contents

- Fern parts
- Fern Identification chart
- Overview of ferns that you are likely to see around Puget Sound in the next few months
- Work on identifying some ferns from specimens and photos

Parts of a Fern

Fron

(twice divided leaflet or twice pinnately compound,)

Fiddleheads

(uncurling fronds)

Fron

(Leaf)

(once divided or pinnate)

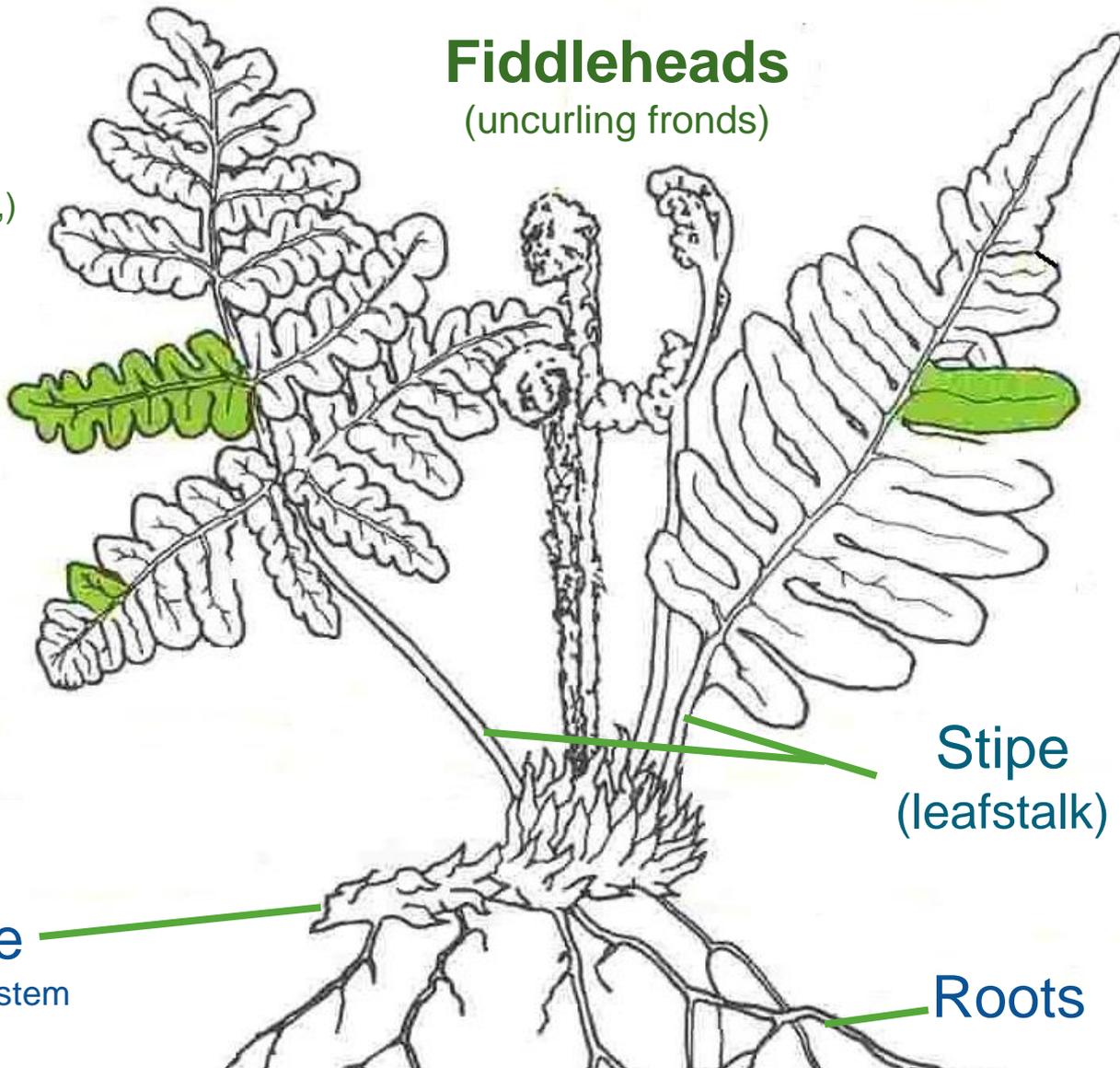
Stipe

(leafstalk)

Rhizome

underground stem

Roots



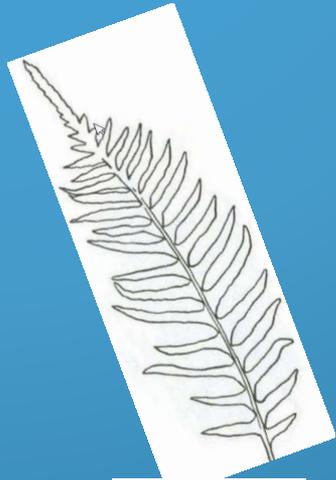
Underside of leaflet with many
spore-producing sporangia.



Common Ferns of PNW

Chart Organization

1. Three groups.



**Once
Divided**



**Twice
Divided**



**Thrice
Divided**



1+ 2+ 3+
**Ultimate segments
toothed or lobed**

2. Largest to
smallest.
(Within the 3 groups)



3. Ecology.



Forest



Cliff faces
Talus slopes

Fern Identification

- Look for more than one characteristic
- What is the geographic location?
- What is the habitat?
- What is the time of year?
 - Is it an evergreen fern?



Once
Divided

Sword Fern 4'



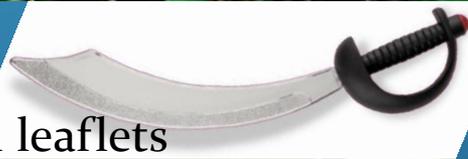
Once +
Divided



Maidenhair Fern 2 1/2'

Black stipes

Individual leaflets
resemble a sword.



Sword Fern

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





Sword Fern

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





Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum

Once Divided

Deer Fern



Fertile leaves 2
1/2'



Sterile leaves



Once Divided



Licorice Fern 1'



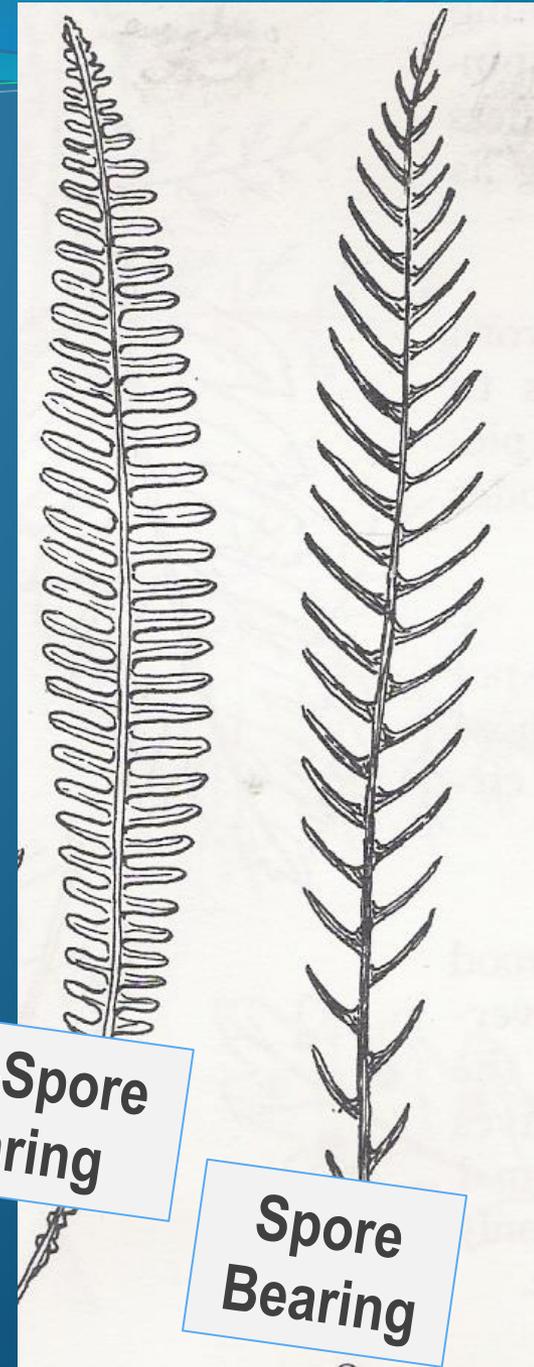
Deer Fern

- 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.



Non-Spore
Bearing

Spore
Bearing





Deer 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 close-up photograph of a tree trunk covered in a thick layer of 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**

**Twice +
Divided**

Lady Fern 3'



Single Stalk, bare to 3'



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

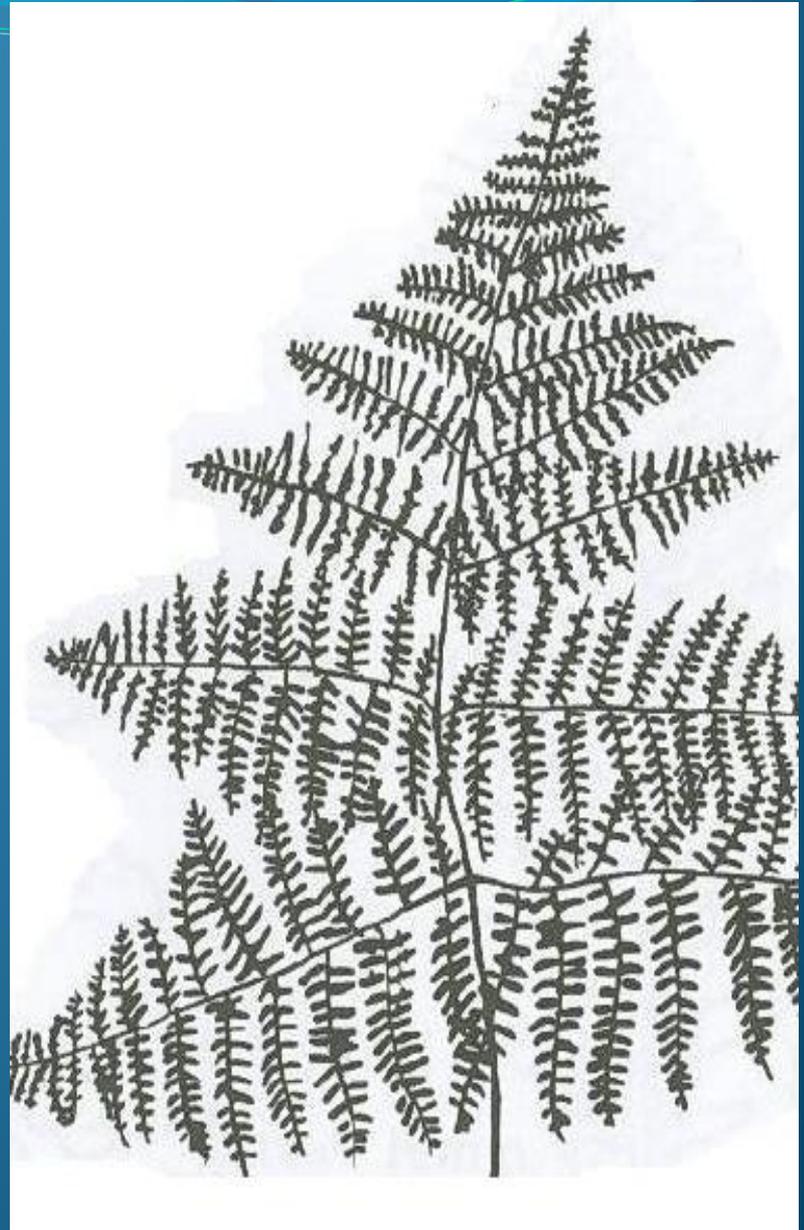
**Thrice
Divided**

Bracken Fern



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



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 lower part 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



**Let's do some
identification!**





Once
Divided

Sword Fern 4'



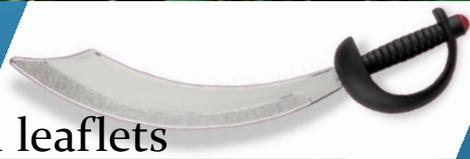
Once +
Divided



Maidenhair Fern 2 1/2'

Black stipes

Individual leaflets
resemble a sword.



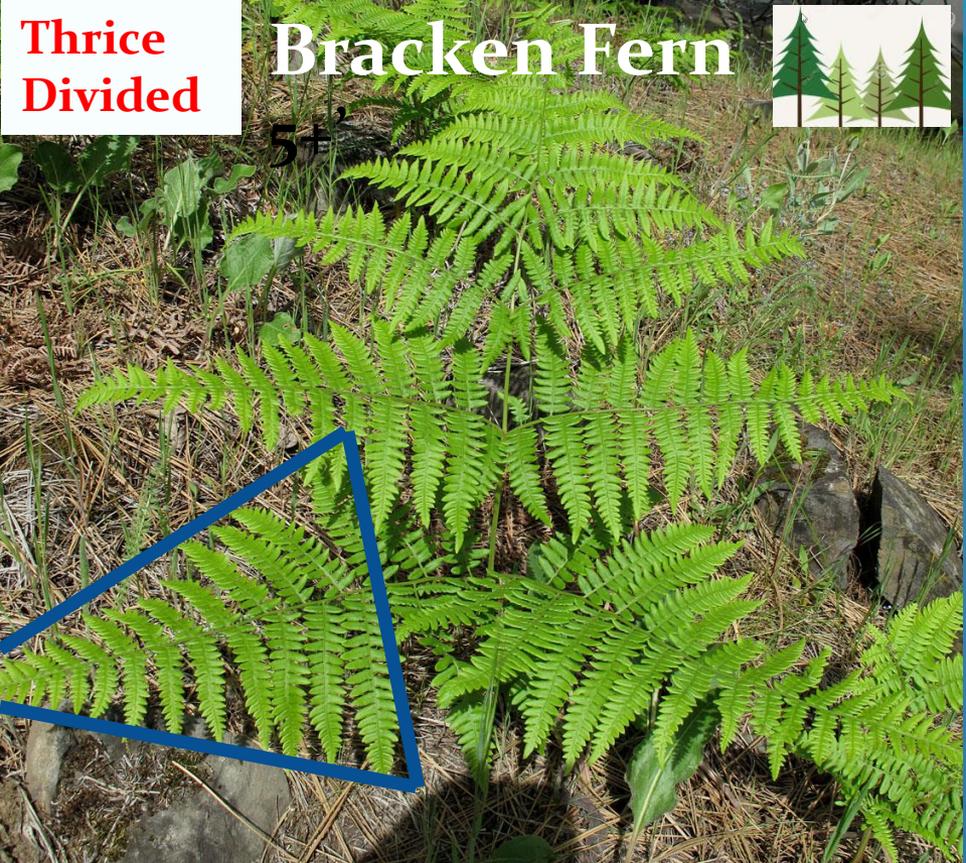


**Thrice
Divided**

Bracken Fern



5ft



Homework Assignment After Lecture 1:

- Spend at least 30 minutes on Quizlet reviewing trees, ferns, and common April flowers. Quizlets will be provided to you after each lecture.
- Take a walk in your neighborhood park and identify 5 trees, 2 ferns, and 10 flowers. Print the page from the handbook and turn it in at lecture 2.
- What was your favorite of the items you identified on your field trip?
- What did you like most about the field trip?
- Please share any feedback about the first lecture or first field trip. You can do that here on your homework or anonymously through the Mountaineers website.

Flowers	Ferns	Trees
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.		3.
4.		4.
5.		5.
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Quizlet

<https://quizlet.com/join/wmb6NJjHm>

Link to the Course Materials Page

<https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-naturalists-committee/course-templates/introduction-to-the-natural-world-course/inw-course-materials>

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BY ELLEN ULLMAN
March 22nd, 2019

4 sets | 1 member | Mountaineers Naturalist Group - Seattle



Introduction to the Natural World

- Sets**
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CLASS JOIN LINK

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Ferns

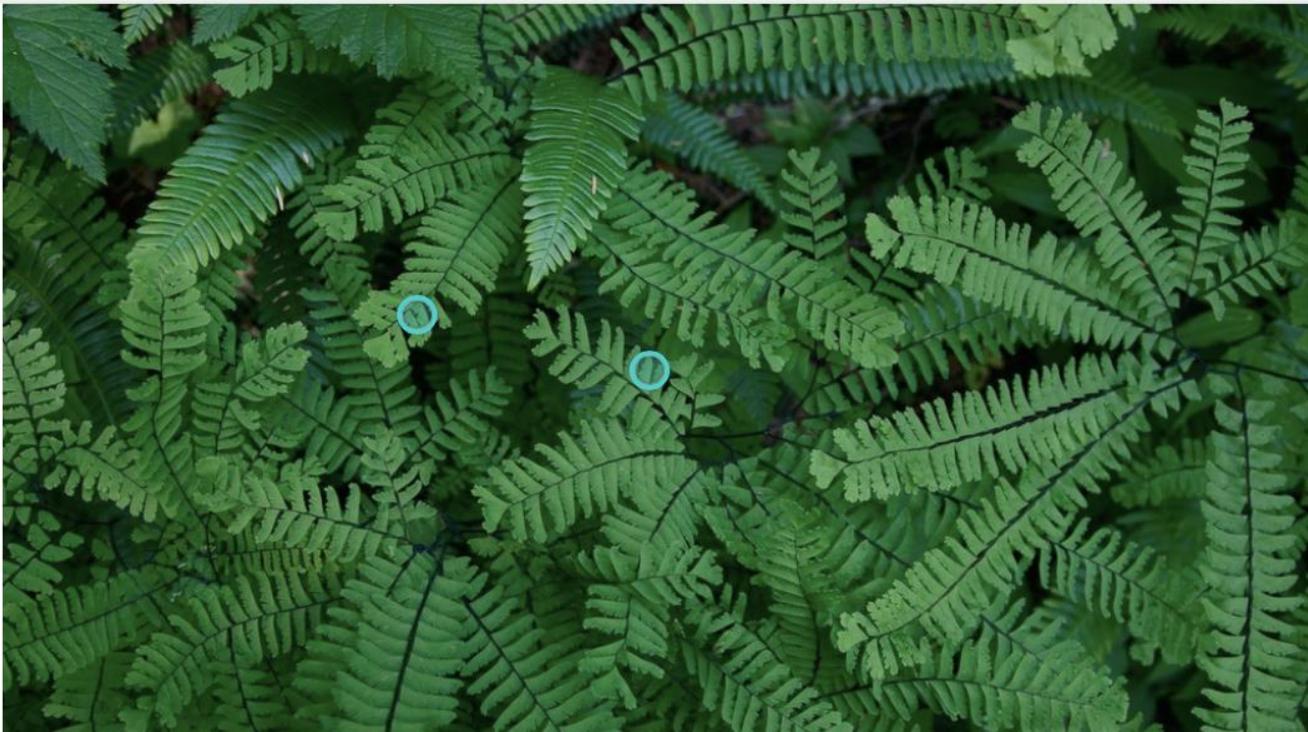
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STUDY

PLAY

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