

Some useful resources about ferns/plants:

Books

- Fern Finder** Hallowell and Hallowell
Easy to use. Very light so easy to carry in the field. Covers a wider region so includes species not found in this area. Does not include a vegetative key. A great first field guide.
- New Jersey Ferns and Fern Allies** Montgomery
Overlap between NJ and Fairfax county is very strong. Pretty good even if you are headed to the mountains. Includes a vegetative key, which is invaluable.
- Peterson Field Guide to Ferns Cobb, Lowe and Farnsworth
Covers a wider area and so includes many ferns not found in our area. Treatment of hybrids is spotty.
- Northeast Ferns** Chadde
With New Jersey Ferns being hard to find, probably the best all-around guide right now.
- A Field Manual of the Ferns and Fern Allies of the United States & Canada Lellinger
For the ultra-serious fern fanatic. Much Too big for regular field use and as you can tell by the title covers a huge area.
- A Natural History of Ferns** Moran
Not a guide, but a series of essays about ferns and other spore-bearing vascular plants. A must for any fern enthusiast on your Christmas list.
- Ferns of the Coastal Plain Dunbar
Not to be taken seriously as a guide and somewhat out of date, but interesting for the inclusion of more folklore and notes of interest about ferns.
- Flora of Virginia Weakley, Ludwig and Townsend
Covers all vascular plants, not just ferns, but essential if you want the most up-do-date names. Too heavy for the field and take some getting used to, but you really should have one.
- Biology and Evolution of Ferns and Lycophytes Ranker and Haufler
If you decide to really get into the subject, this highly technical book is the next logical step once you have understood Moran's book (above).

Websites

- www.plants.usda.gov US Dept. of Agriculture
Searchable database. Includes range maps, species accounts, and is easy to move between levels of a plant's classification. Easy to use; slow to adapt to changes in nomenclature.
- www.amerfernsoc.org The American Fern Society
Generally focuses on growing of ferns, but contains useful background information. Publishes a variety of fern-related periodicals.
- www.ipni.org The International Plant Name Index
A collaborative effort between Kew Gardens, The Harvard University Herbaria, and the Australian National Herbarium. Searchable database of plants. Generally very up-to-date; not very user-friendly.

Apps

- Flora of Virginia App**
All the advantages of the book, plus an easier-to-use key, plus it does not weigh seven pounds.
- Seek
As great as Seek is for wildflower ID, it remains a work in progress for ferns.