

Fern Books

Compiled by Kirsten and Dwight Johnson

Fern books available in print

Boughton Cobb et al, Peterson Field Guide to Ferns of Northeastern and North Central North America, Houghton Mifflin 2005. This recently revised Peterson guide is the best fern ID reference book around.

Anne and Barbara Hallowell, Fern Finder, Nature Study Guild 1981. Part of the familiar “finder series,” this pocket-sized key is well designed for field use.

Peter M Mazzeo, Ferns and Fern Allies of Shenandoah National Park, Shenandoah Natural History Association 1981. We bought this nice little key at the visitor center.

Robbin C. Moran, A Natural History of Ferns, Timber Press 2004. Not an identification book. This is highly readable, filled with interesting information about ferns.

Standard Flora

The flora that we all know and love do, of course, include the ferns. The ones we use most are:

Brown & Brown, Herbaceous Plants of Maryland

Strausbaugh & Core, Flora of West Virginia

Gleason & Cronquist, Manual of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada

Rhoads and Block, Plants of Pennsylvania

Old References

The following are not in print, but they are available sporadically through used book sellers, *e.g.*, Amazon or Alibris. Although not up-to-date taxonomically, these works have value to anyone with a serious interest in ferns.

Clyde Reed, Ferns and Fern Allies of Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia, Reed Herbarium 1953

Edgar T. Wherry, The Fern Guide for Northeastern and Midland United States and Adjacent Canada, Doubleday 1961

John Kunkel Small, Ferns in the Vicinity of New York, Dover 1975 (republication of a 1935 work)

Frances Theodora Parsons, How to Know the Ferns, Dover 1961 (republication of an 1899 work)

Willard Nelson Clute, Our Ferns: Their Haunts, Habitats and Folklore, 1931