

Ferns were already very old when they flourished over 300 million years ago; plants with fern-like leaves and ferns were so abundant in ancient tropical swamp forests that this time has been called "The Age of Ferns." Modern-day ferns are exquisitely diverse in size, shape and leaf-form; from magnificent 30-foot tall tree ferns to the diminutive hairy water-clover, with its 4-leaf clover leaves. There are approximately 380 kinds of ferns in North America and most of them can be found on the national forests and grasslands. Ferns are adapted to nearly all environments—forests, deserts, tropics, alpine and aquatic. Similar to flowering plants, ferns have roots, stems and leaves. However, unlike flowering plants, ferns do not have flowers or seeds; instead, they reproduce sexually by tiny spores or reproduce vegetatively, as illustrated by the walking fern. Experience the world of ferns anew and delight in the outstanding beauty and variety of our ferns.

# Celebrating Ferns



Art and Design  
by  
Steve Buchanan