

Species	Frond	Distribution	Habitat	Confusion sp.	Key features
Hart's tongue	Undivided	Widespread, very common	Woods, banks	None	Long, strap-like fronds. Linear sori
Adder's tongue	Undivided	Scarce	Unimproved pasture	None	Broad plantain like leaf sheathing the spore case
Hard fern	Pinnate	Common	Acid woods	Polypody	Narrow, rigid, glossy fronds in a rosette
Rustyback fern	Pinnate	Common in suitable habitat in SW	Walls/rocks (lime)	None	Scales clothing the frond underside
Maidenhair spleenwort	Pinnate	Widespread and common	Walls/rocks	None	Rounded pinnae and thin, black hair-like stem
Wall rue	Bi-pinnate	Common	Walls/rocks (lime)	Black spleenwort	Club shaped pinnae (with fan-shaped pinnules)
Lemon-scented	Bi-pinnate	Commoner in north	Upland, moist acidic ground	Male ferns	Lemon-scent when crushed. Sparse, pale stem scales. Pinnae narrow towards base.
Royal fern	Bi-pinnate	Local, occasional	Wet woods	None	Large majestic fern with fertile 'flower' spikes
Brittle bladder	Bi-pinnate	Frequent in suitable habitat	Walls (lime)	Black spleenwort	Delicate appearance, black stem base and round sori
Bracken	Tri-pinnate	Widespread, v. common	Well-drained soils	None	Lower pinnae stalked, fronds 1-3m tall
Oak fern	Tri-pinnate	Local, occasional	Atlantic woodland	None	Frond folds back on stem, pointing skyward. Stem very thin. Pinnae are 3 equal sized triangles.
Parsley fern	Tri-pinnate	Scarce	Uplands (North)	None	Feathery, finely divided fronds.