‘Top’ Ferns
From Pat Curran
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- Adiantum pedatum, maidenhair fern start with a good-sized plant; native
- Athyrium filix-femina, lady fern native clumping fern
- Athyrium fix-femina ‘Frizelliae’, tatting fern cultivar of native species
- Athyrium filix-femina ‘Lady in Red’ cultivar of native species
- Athyrium x ‘Ghost’ hybrid with upright silver foliage
- Athyrium niponicum, Japanese painted fern sensitive to late spring frosts; several cultivars
- Dryopteris erythrosora, autumn fern colorful new fronds
- Dryopteris goldiana, Goldie’s fern tall clumping native
- Dryopteris marginalis, marginal wood fern semi-evergreen native
- Matteuccia struthiopteris, ostrich fern spreads rapidly; tall
- Osmunda cinnamomea, cinnamon fern likes it moist or wet; native; showy fertile fronds
- Osmunda claytonia, interrupted fern likes it moist or wet; native
- Osmunda regalis, royal fern likes it moist or wet; native; unusual foliage effect
- Polystichum acrostichoides, Christmas fern native; semi-evergreen; drought-resistant
- Polystichum polyblepharum, tassel fern shiny fronds, slightly winter-tender

Reference:
Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Third Edition, by Allan M. Armitage
Perennials for American Gardens by Ruth Rogers Clausen and Nicolas H. Ekstrom
The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting & Pruning Techniques, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust

Learn more:
Cornell Bluegrass Lane perennial research:
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/cornell_herbaceous/
Missouri Botanic Garden Plant Finder (over 6800 plants):
http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx
Garden Guidance
www.gardening.cornell.edu

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