



## ***Adiantum pedatum* – Maidenhair Fern**

**COMMON NAME:** Maidenhair Fern, Northern Maidenhair

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Adiantum pedatum* This name comes from a Greek word meaning “unwetted” because drops of water roll off without wetting the fronds.

**REPRODUCTION:** Propagate by rootstock cuttings in the early spring and from spores.

**SIZE:** This fern grows 8-20 inches high.

**BEHAVIOR:** This fern is attractive from spring to fall. It is slow to spread and is non-invasive. Plants should be placed about 18-24 inches apart.

**SITE REQUIREMENTS:** Maidenhair fern has a wide tolerance of soils, but does best in rich, moist woods on northern exposures where the air is cool and humid. It is important to protect the plants from strong winds and exposure to strong sunlight.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** This is an exceedingly beautiful and delicate fern. The graceful fronds grow outward in a flat, fan-like shape. These feathery fronds shed water. The stalks are black, as are the wiry roots.

**NATURAL RANGE:** Nova Scotia to Alaska and south to Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, Utah and California. It is found in all parts of Wisconsin.

**SUGGESTED CARE:** The rhizome should be planted so that the top is about an inch below the surface. Sphagnum peat moss is good to add to the soil for holding moisture and adding to the acidity. Top with mulch or straw to keep the ground cool and hold moisture. Little care is needed once established in a proper habitat.

**COMPANION PLANTS:** Baneberry, blue cohosh, toothwort, bloodroot, false Solomon’s seal, Dutchman’s breeches, wild geranium, bellwort.