Maidenhair Fern  
(*Adiantum pedatum*)

2’ graceful, distinctive, clump-forming.

CT native, found in rich woodlands, slopes, shaded ravines, rocky seeps, damp sheltered valleys.

Uniquely among ferns, each dark shiny wiry red-brown stem holds fronds that spread horizontally and fan-like in a nearly perfect circle up to 2’ across.

Burgundy fiddleheads appear in early spring. Each 12” fine-textured frond, with 4-24 leaflets, emerges pinkish-brown, turns coppery, then bright green, then gray-green. Often the contrasting colors are present simultaneously. With enough moisture, new fronds are sent up all summer.

Part sun to shade. A few hours of daily sun creates lush density. Moist to average well-drained humusy soil. Protect from wind. Keep watered in first year as the roots grow in. Easy, and will colonize in the right site. Fragile in appearance but actually tough and resilient.

Use as specimen or masses in woods, shady borders or rock gardens, along paths, with wildflowers, as groundcover. Its delicate look is beautiful when paired with broad-leaved plants like foamflowers or wild ginger.

Provides shelter for amphibians.

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