



## ***Adiantum pedatum***

### **Northern Maidenhair**

Dainty, bright green fronds are held aloft on shiny black stems, creating a light, airy texture in the woodland garden. In rich soil and bright shade it will spread by shallow rhizomes to form a dense groundcover. Found in the humus-rich woodlands and moist woods of Eastern North America. Easy to grow as long as the soil is loose and rich.

Shade or bright shade

Height: 12-24 inches    Spread: 12 - 18 inches

*Adiantum pedatum*, the five finger maidenhair, has long topped the popularity list for native North American ferns. Even those who dismiss ferns as “all looking alike” appreciate this species for bringing grace and beauty to the shady garden. The pedate frond hand waves its airy fingers horizontally from atop a purple black stipe (stem) of 1 to 3 feet in height. In time, good moist compost and filtered light this will form a lush clump gradually spreading its welcome wands of foliage. Brighter light will reduce the size of the fronds but full sun does not make for a happy plant! Although deciduous and depending on Mother Nature’s whims, it can hold its fronds into late fall.

Northern Maidenhair can be found in humus-rich woodlands and moist woods in acidic to neutral, moist, well-drained soils. Does not tolerate clay. Happier in cooler climates and can take more sun in northern zones. Spreads by shallow rhizomes. Propagate by dividing rhizomes in spring. Best used as a groundcover in the woodland or rock garden or as an edge or border in the shaded garden.