

Northern maidenhair *Adiantum pedatum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Pteridophyta

Class: Filicopsida

Order: Polypodiales

Family: Pteridaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The northern maidenhair has curved, flat fronds on thin stalks. Each flat frond may attain a length of more than 10 inches. Leaflets are blue-green and arranged five or six per each branch of stalk. The rachis is red-brown. The stipe is smooth and black or dark brown. It may grow to 20 inches in length. The fiddleheads are dark red.

BEHAVIORS

The northern maidenhair may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in moist, shaded, rich woodlands, especially in ravines or under wet, rock banks. Spores are produced June through September.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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