

Ferns

There are about 12,000 different types of ferns in the world. They are different from other plants because they do not produce flowers or seeds.

Fern fossils have been found that are around 360 million years old! However, many of the species that are around today did not appear until about 145 million years ago.



Ferns can survive in times of drought (when there is no rain). When a drought sets in, the leaves curl up as if they were dead. Then when it rains the leaves open out again.

Some ferns (like the Stag's Horn Fern) are 'air plants' which means that they can grow on other plants up in the air. They don't have roots so they catch rain at the bottom of their leaves.

More fern facts:

- Ferns reproduce by producing spores rather than seeds.
- There are four main habitats that ferns are found in: moist, shady forests; shady crevices (cracks) in rock faces; bogs/swamps; and tropical trees.
- Large ferns are called tree ferns.