



photo: Dan Jaffe

SWEET FERN

Comptonia peregrina

A small, aromatic clumping shrub that colonizes and spreads vigorously if left alone. Great native groundcover!

Benefits for Wildlife

- Sole host plant of the moth *Xenolechia aethiops*
- Flickers eat the fruits
- Provides cover for grouse and rabbits
- In winter, browsed by deer and moose

Host to 64 caterpillar species, including:
(common names) Sweetfern Leaf Casebearer;
Wayward Nymph; Sweetfern Geometer;
Apple Sphinx; Wavy-Lined Emerald; Io Moth

Benefits for People

- Good plant for stabilizing slopes and embankments
- Dry bundles of leaves to preserve fragrance

Growing Information

<i>Sunlight</i>	Full sun to part shade
<i>Soil Type</i>	Adaptable, tolerates drought and wet conditions; prefers sandy loams
<i>Height</i>	2–4'
<i>Width</i>	4-8'
<i>Flowering calendar</i>	May to August

Natural Habitat

- Dry, open woods; sandy barrens

