



photo: Dan Jaffe

# SWEET FERN

*Comptonia peregrina*

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

## Growing Information

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

## Benefits for Wildlife

Leaves	Yes
Flowers	Yes

Fruit

Seeds

Host to 3 caterpillar species:

(common names) Sweetfern Leaf Casebearer;  
Wayward Nymph; Sweetfern Geometer

## Benefits for People

- Good plant for stabilizing slopes and embankments

## Natural Habitat

- Dry, open woods; sandy barrens

