

## Christmas Fern

Pines, cedars and spruces aren't the only evergreen plants found during winter. The green fronds of the Christmas fern may be found peeking out from under the snow. Christmas ferns can grow in large colonial masses but are usually found in clusters of two or three ferns.



Like the name suggests, these hardy ferns were popular in floral decorations, especially around

Christmas. Continuing with the holiday theme, Christmas ferns also have small boot or stocking-shaped leaflets.

Chemicals within the leaves are distasteful to most herbivores, protecting it from grazers such as deer. The fronds do provide protection and shelter for ground dwelling and nesting birds.



## Wintergreen

If there isn't too much snow, Christmas ferns aren't the only evergreen plant you may see. The red and waxy berries of Wintergreen can be found dotting the forest floor, especially around conifer trees.



Few insects, birds or mammals seem to forage on this plant, however that may be because of its aromatic nature. All parts of the plant have a minty smell when crushed. Also known as Teaberry, the dried leaves may be steeped to make tea.

**Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.**

This inSTALLation is available online at [www.chippewanaturecenter.org](http://www.chippewanaturecenter.org) under About Us, Publications, Nature Notes.