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# SUNNYSIDE THYMES

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## A Gardener's Wish List

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As a lot of you all know, we live in a mature woods. Luckily, I have come to appreciate plants that do well in less sun. Ferns are always good and I've discovered a new fern I need, the Athyrium x 'Ghost' Lady Fern. I didn't know about it until agreeing to write this article and don't have this one YET, but I will someday soon. I saw this fern recently at the Waterfront Botanical Garden and it is lovely. It was planted with coral bells and hostas nearby, with oak leaf hydrangea behind it. This fern has gently arching, rigid, narrower fronds of silver-gray with cranberryish-red ribs. The lobes of this fern are small enough to remind me of an old-timey kind of handmade lace: tatting.

The 'Ghost' fern is a vigorous and easy to grow fern that thrives in moist, shady settings. Try to maintain evenly moist soil, although it's more tolerant of brief dry spells than most ferns of this type. The light requirements are partial to full shade. The height is 18"-24" and the spread is from 18"-24" USDA Zones 4-9. I think this will be a perfect addition to my woodland garden and to yours also. The 'Ghost' picture was taken at The Waterfront Botanical Garden.

Another plant I just became aware of because of this article is Carex oshimensis, EverColor Series Sedge Selection. I bought three 'Everoro' about a month ago and they are thriving in my new garden spot. They look great along the edge of this planting and I wish I'd gotten several more. I think they'd also work wonderfully along walkways or in containers. I love the graceful, arching form of this plant and how it provides a bright accent. These require 4-6 hours of sun, grow 12"-18" tall and should be planted 12"-18" apart and are hardy to -20 degrees F. The tag recommends fertilizing regularly to keep the plants happy and to water well when dry and to check often during hot, dry weather. The picture with the pots is from my house.

I also saw Japanese Weeping Sedge, Carex oshimensis 'Evergold' used in plantings at The Waterfront Botanical Garden. This plant is also very nice and appears to be a larger cultivar, although I imagine that the "Everoro" will also be larger eventually. Any of these, or all three, would be great in your shade gardens.



*Ghost Lady Fern*



*Everoro Sedge*



*Evergold Japanese Weeping Sedge*

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