

FERN SPORES

by John Thompson

The following experience gives some idea of the abundance of fern spores that are deposited in nature which, when given the right conditions, will commence growth.

In my small glasshouse, the door of which is usually kept closed, I have two orchids hanging from the end of a bench. They are regularly watered, the water running down on to the earthen-cinder floor below.

Last year I was interested to notice a thick sward of very small ferns growing under these orchids. The ferns had germinated at about the same time. When they had grown sufficiently large enough for me to identify them I pulled up from this area, only 15 inches by 8 inches, the following ferns :-

1 plant	<u>Histiopteris incisa</u>
1 plant	<u>Adiantum</u> sp. with large leaves
3 plants	<u>Blechnum penna-marina</u>
8 plants	<u>Pteridium aquilinum</u>
56 plants	<u>Dryopteris felix-mas</u>

Of the above species only Dryopteris felix-mas now grows in my garden.

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