

Sweet Fern

Comptonia peregrina

-Sweet Fern is a very short shrub of very sandy and sunny areas. The average Sweet Fern is only going to get about 16 inches tall.

-Sweet Fern does have some wonderful erosion control attributes for property owners who have sandy and sunny slopes. Furthermore, nothing seems to eat Sweet Fern, not even cows. When I was a kid, I remember that the cows would not eat the Sweet Fern or the Milkweed. So if you have deer problems, and you have tried everything else, why not try some Sweet Fern.

-Honestly, the best thing about Sweet Fern is the smell. Of course, I cannot explain to you how it smells. But it is a classical late summer smell to me. In the fall, before the leaves turn, take some of the leaves from your Sweet Fern and put them in the Ziplock bag and then forget about them until the middle of winter. In February, when you are just about to move to Florida because you can hear your rusting and you're out of firewood, pull out that Ziploc of Sweet Fern and put it in a potpourri dish. It will instantly make you forget your wintertime blues with its smells of summer.

