

DRYOPTERIDACEAE – WOOD FERN FAMILY

Plant: fern, terrestrial

Root:

Stem and Leaves: stems erect to nearly prostrate, scaly; leaves either monomorphic (one leaf type) or dimorphic (separate sterile and fertile leaves), rachis scaly at base, blade 1-5+ pinnate,

Fruit (Sori): sori on veins (usually not on margins of leaf) and of various shapes, +/- an indusium, sporangium stalk of 2-3 rows of cells, monoletic (single attachment scar) bilateral spores

Other: Division Pteridophyta (Ferns)

Genera: 60+ genera

* Fern terminology is discussed in **PLANT TERMS**, a separate tab on the HOME page.

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Sensitive fern; *Onoclea sensibilis* L.

Christmas Fern; *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Michx.) Schott

Blunt-Lobed Cliff Fern [Common Woodsia]; *Woodsia obtusa* (Spreng.) Torr. Subsp. *obtusa*

Sensitive Fern

Onoclea sensibilis L.

Dryopteridaceae (Wood Fern family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: sturdy upright fern; sterile leaves light green, often tilts back, most upper leaflets winged, lowermost tapering at both ends and usually stalked, note prominent net veining; fertile leaves have compact, rounded spore cases that dry and usually overwinter; common fern

[V Max Brown, 2007]



Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides (Michx.) Schott
Dryopteridaceae (Wood Fern family)
Pickle Springs Conservation Area, St.

Genenieve County, Missouri

Notes: sturdy evergreen fern; leaves up to 1m,
lanceolate with prominent ear or wing, short stalked,
with teeth and tipped with bristles, lowest pair of
leaflets deflexed, fertile leaves most erect usually; spore
cases in 2+ rows next to midrib, indusia round; axis
scaly with a front groove; common fern in woody areas

[V Max Brown, 2012]



Fertile pinnae distal on
blade, sori completely
covers abaxial side



Blunt-Lobed Cliff Fern [Common Woodsia]

Woodsia obtusa (Spreng.) Torr. Subsp. *obtusa*

Dryopteridaceae (Wood Fern family)

Christian County, Missouri

Notes: fern erect to horizontal; stipe glandular hairy, with scales (chaffy); leaves short to 60 cm by few to 12 cm, blade lanceolate to somewhat ovate, 2 pinnate to 2 pinnate-2 pinnatifid, pinnules dentate, with glandular hairs, proximal portion of lower pinnae mostly crenate (lower right photo); sporangia tend to hide indusia; rocky woodlands in many habitats

[V Max Brown, 2014]

