

## DENNSTAEDTIACEAE – BRACKEN FERN FAMILY

**Plant:** fern, mostly terrestrial

**Root:**

**Stem and Leaves:** stems erect to nearly prostrate, hairy to some extent; leaves monomorphic (one leaf type), rachis grooved or not, blade 1-4+ pinnate, usually hairy

**Fruit (Sori):** sori on vein tips usually on margins of leaf, margin of leaf often reflexed over sori, indusia usually present; spores not green, monoletate (single attachment scar) or trilete

**Other:** Division Pteridophyta (Ferns); not all species show above characteristics

**Genera:** 20+ genera

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

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Western Bracken Fern; *Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn

# Western Bracken Fern

*Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn

Dennstaedtiaceae (Bracken Fern family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: sturdy upright fern, usually ternate divided (looks like 3 blades); leaf blade somewhat deltate, usually hairy to some degree, 2-4 pinnate but usually bipinnate pinnatifid, pinnae opposite to mostly alternate; sori along margins with leaf reflexed (fertile fronds may be hard to find); common large wood fern forming large colonies (varieties present but debated)

[V Max Brown, 2007]

