

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.

DRYOPTERIDACEAE – WOOD FERN FAMILY

Sensitive fern; *Onoclea sensibilis* L.

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

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)

Trace Creek, Madison 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; axis scaly with a front groove; common fern

[V Max Brown, 2006]

