

OSMUNDACEAE – ROYAL FERN FAMILY

Plant: fern, terrestrial

Root:

Stem and Leaves: leaves 1 to 2 pinnate (+/- pinnatifid), rachis grooved, one (monomorphic) or two (dimorphic) forms of fronds (sterile/fertile pinnae), plant often with reddish-brown hairs

Fruit (Sori): sori structures absent, sporangia either on portions or segments of a frond (with green or sterile pinnae) or sporangia cover a separate fertile frond, indusium absent; spores green

Other: Division Pteridophyta, Fern Group

Genera: 3 genera

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

OSMUNDACEAE – ROYAL FERN FAMILY

Interrupted Fern; *Osmunda claytoniana* L.

Cinnamon Fern; *Osmunda cinnamomea* L.

Royal Fern; *Osmunda regalis* L. var. *spectabilis* (Willd.) A. Gray

Interrupted Fern

Osmunda claytoniana L.

Osmundaceae (Royal Fern Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: sturdy large upright fern; sterile and fertile blades pinnate- pinnatifid (once cut and then lobed), bright green, up to ~1m, fertile blades interrupted mid-rachis by 4+ sporangia structures, blade leaflets cut deeply, rounded or blunt; stem round, green, faintly grooved, mostly smooth; sporangia nearly sessile, glandular and brown; woods; late spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2008]



Cinnamon Fern

Osmunda cinnamomea L.
Osmundaceae (Royal Fern Family)
Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas
County, Ohio



Notes: sturdy large fern; sterile leaves bright green, up to ~1m, usually encircling fertile leaves, woolly tuff at base near axis, nearly opposite, pinnate-pinnatifid, leaflets cut deeply, slightly rounded to usually pointed, not opposite; fertile leaves stout and erect; spore cases on short stalks

[V Max Brown, 2007]



Royal Fern

Osmunda regalis L. var. *spectabilis* (Willd.) A. Gray

Osmundaceae (Royal Fern Family)

Hawn State Park, St. Genieve County, Missouri

Notes: sturdy large upright fern; blades bipinnate, bright green, up to ~1m., blade leaflets short stalked, oblong, alternate, glabrous, margins finely serrate, rachis ends with fertile portion, sporangia structures globular, greenish brown and crowded; stem round, greenish, woody near base; moist areas near creeks or streams; spring

[V Max Brown, 2012]

