

DRYOPTERIS FILIX-MAS (L.) Schott.  
Male Fern

FAMILY: Dryopteridaceae

HABIT: Rhizome erect; fronds up to 1 m. long.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species superficially resembles *D. marginalis* or the hybrid between *D. marginalis* and *D. carthusiana*. Male fern can be differentiated from other wood ferns by having scales on the stipe as well as the rachis.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. to Vt., n. to Mich., ne. Ill., S.D., and Mexico.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 records from Richland and Summit counties.

STATE STATUS: Added-2002; Endangered-2004.

HABITAT: Moist rich woods.

HAZARDS: Invasive species and habitat loss.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Fair; species seems to be increasing its range.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature sporulating material.

COMMENTS: Male fern possibly is expanding its range as it has been recently discovered in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Flora of North America Committee eds. 1993+. Flora of North America North of Mexico. 7+ vols. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford.



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