

DRYOPTERIS CLINTONIANA (D.C. Eaton) Dowell
Clinton's Wood Fern

FAMILY: Dryopteridaceae

SYNONYMS: *Dryopteris cristata* (L.) Gray var. *clintoniana* (D.C. Eaton) Underwood;
Dryopteris X clintoniana (D.C. Eaton) Dowell

HABIT: Perennial with evergreen fronds to 13 dm.; sporulating July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is part of a *Dryopteris* complex that includes several species, many of them of widespread occurrence in Ohio. *D. clintoniana* grows in the same habitat as *D. carthusiana* and *D. cristata* and is easily confused with them. Identification requires careful comparison of complete specimens of these species.

TOTAL RANGE: ME and Quebec to WI, s. to NY, n. NJ, n. PA, n. OH, and n. IN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula and Mahoning counties. Pre-1980 records are from Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Portage and Wayne counties.

HABITAT: Swamp woods; shade-tolerant.

HAZARDS: Drying of habitat by removal of forest canopy.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably good; many related species grow well in cultivation.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species may be more frequent than the records indicate. It is easily confused with other, more common species.
Clinton's wood fern is a hexaploid that probably derived from hybridization between *D. cristata* and *D. goldiana*. It has also been treated by some authors as a variety of *D. cristata* (see Synonyms).

It should be noted that the illustration labeled Clinton's wood fern in Vannorsdall (1956) is actually a specimen of *Dryopteris X slossonae* Wherry, while that labeled *Dryopteris cristata* is actually *D. clintoniana* (Morton, 1957).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Vannorsdall, H.H. 1956. Ferns of Ohio. Publ. by the author, Wilmington, OH. 298 p.

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