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.


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: