

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Onoclea sensibilis

Sensitive Fern



Also called bead fern. Broad, light green leaves, and a brown, upright, "bead-stick," which is actually the fertile leaf of the plant, and which remains standing all winter. Spreads rapidly; it can overwhelm less aggressive plants. Give it room to spread, or plant it with other toughies. Likes wet soil; will tolerate full sun if kept moist.

Suggested companions: skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), sedges for wet meadows (*Carex* sp.), southern blue flag iris (*Iris virginica*)

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium, by Kenneth J. Sytsma

Plant Type: Fern

Size: 1-2.5' H
W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Wet Meadow
Swamp/ Bog
Shrubby Wetland

Soil: Rich Moist
Very Damp/Wet
Average Garden Soil

Exposure: sun
filtered
shade

Flower Color:

Bloom Time:

Plant in: Fall

Groundcover: Yes

Other Attributes:

Deer resistant
Winter interest