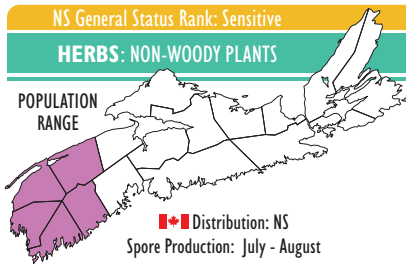




POPULATION RANGE

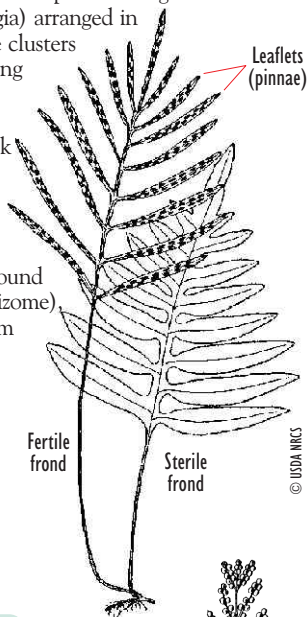


◆◆ Distribution: NS
Spore Production: July - August

SIZE: 30-80 cm tall.

LEAVES: Two types of leaves (fronds). Each plant has several non-reproductive (sterile) fronds arising from the same root system. Some plants also have narrower reproductive (fertile) fronds. Sterile fronds are 10-17 cm wide and divided into 14-20 leaflets (pinnae), 7-10 on each side of the stalk. The leaflets are 1-2 cm wide and are finely toothed along their edges. Fertile fronds are taller, and have much narrower leaflets with reproductive spore-bearing bodies (sporangia) arranged in elongate clusters resembling chains.

STEM: The stalk of the frond emerges from an underground root (rhizome), 2-3.5 mm thick.



Sterile frond

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Fertile frond leaflet

© MEGAN CROWLEY



Fertile frond

© MEGAN CROWLEY

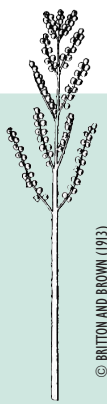
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Habitat:

Stream edges, wetlands (swamps and bogs) and along lakeshores.

Interesting point: Its name comes from the chain-like appearance of the spore-bearing bodies on the fertile frond leaflets.

Similar Species: Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) sterile fronds look similar to Dwarf Chain Fern but the leaflets (pinnae) have wavy margins. The fertile fronds, which persist over winter, are coarse and dark with hardened bead-like segments.



Sensitive Fern sterile frond

© BRITTON AND BROWN (1913)



Sensitive Fern sterile frond



Finely toothed leaflet

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