

## Massachusetts Fern

*Thelypteris simulata*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

HERBS: NON-WOODY PLANTS



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Leaflet composed of many pinnules

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Pinnules with unbranched secondary veins

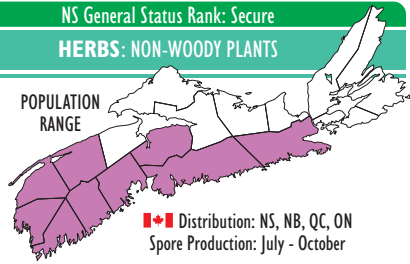
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Downward pointing lowest leaflets

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POPULATION RANGE



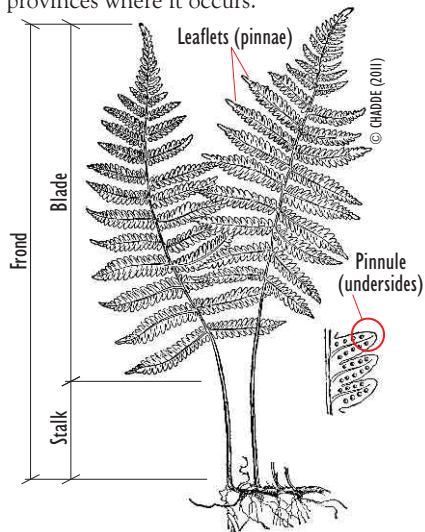
☛☛ Distribution: NS, NB, QC, ON  
Spore Production: July - October

**SIZE:** Up to 80 cm tall.

**LEAVES:** Fern blades are 15-35 cm long and 7-20 cm wide, on 12-45 cm long straw coloured stalks. The lowest leaflets (pinnae) generally point downwards. The leaflets (pinnae) on the fronds are divided into pinnules. The secondary veins on the pinnules that run from the center to the edge are unbranched. Reproductive (fertile) fronds are very similar to non-reproductive (sterile) fronds but can be slightly taller with narrower leaflets.

**STEM:** The stalk of the frond emerges from an underground root (rhizome), 2-3 mm wide.

**NOTES:** Also known as Bog Fern, this species is fairly common in NS but extremely rare in all other Canadian provinces where it occurs.



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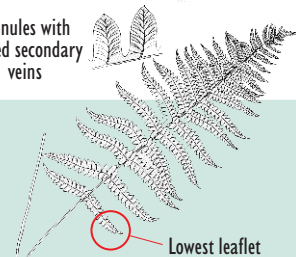
Fron  
Blade

Stalk

Leaflets (pinnae)

Pinnule (undersides)

Pinnules with forked secondary veins



Marsh Fern

Lowest leaflet

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### Habitat:

Wet shaded areas such as wooded swamps and floodplains.

**Interesting point:** The Greek translation of *Thelypteris* is "female fern".

**Similar Species:** The three ferns of this genus in NS can be distinguished by differences in the lowest leaflet on the frond. The lowest leaflet on New York Fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*) is much smaller and rudimentary (less than 2 cm long), and for Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) it points straight out rather than down. In both New York Fern and Marsh Fern, the veins running from the center to the edge of the pinnules are forked.