



ROYAL FERN
Osmunda regalis

Located in swamps, freshwater marshes, peaty thickets, swales and on shores throughout the Division. Also known as Royal Osmond, Bracken, Buckhorn-Brake; King's-, Flowering-, Water-, Tree-, Snake-, or Ditch-Fern; Bog-Onion, Herb Christopher and Hartshorn-Bush.

The cluster of many-branched fronds arising from a stout rootstock appears more like a bush than the typical fern; 1 to 3.5 m high. The leafless frond-stalk about equals the length of the blade, reddish at first becoming green, with broad basal wings. The fronds more distinctly branched than *O. cinnamomen* or *O. claytoniana*; each pinna composed of numerous alternate, spaced, leaf-like pinnules; pinnules are oblong, blunt-tipped and round-based. Fertile fronds similar except the distinctive fertile terminal branches are smaller, the pinnules narrowly cylindrical, greenish when young, becoming dark brown and withering with age; fruiting in spring and early summer.



Notes