



Cinnamon Fern with fertile spikes



Young Cinnamon Fern
with fertile stalk

Cinnamon Fern

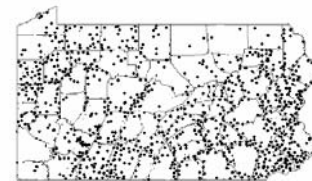
Cinnamon Stalk Fern
Cinnamon Spice Fern

Characteristics: Large rootstock, widely creeping, bearing a circular cluster of sterile leaves with one or more fertile leaves within. Pinnae linear-lanceolate, deeply pinnatifid into oblong obtuse segments; fertile leaf contracted, bipinnate, soon withering. Sporangies cinnamon-colored after the copious green spores have been discharged. Pinnae cut into broadly oblong divisions that do not reach the midvein.

Habitat: Swampy or boggy areas. Grows best in shade but will thrive in open sun. Likes stream banks and wet acidic soils.

North American Range: In wet places, Nova Scotia to Minnesota, south to Florida and Mexico. Ascends to 5600 ft. in Virginia and the higher mountains of the Appalachian Range.

Pennsylvania Range:



Osmunda cinnamomea Linnaeus

Struthiopteris cinnamomea
(L.) Bernhardt
Osmundastrum cinnamomeum
(L.) Presl
Osmunda cinnamomea v. *typica*
Fernald

Remarks: Cinnamon Fern can usually be identified by the small tuft of rust-colored hair remaining at the base of each leaflet when the characteristic fertile fronds are not present. Another indicator of this fern is a small tuft of wool on the underside of the base of each pinna. Osmunda fiber used in the potting of orchids comes from the roots of these ferns. Several specialized forms of this fern have been documented in various regions of the country. For example, *O. cinnamomea* form *latipinnula* Blake is found in Vermont, *O. cinnamomea* v. *trifolia* Clute resides in Florida and *O. cinnamomea* v. *imbricata* Milde, is found in Louisiana and along the Gulf States. The genus name of this plant was suggested by Linnaeus for Osmunder, a mythological Saxon who was reputed to have hidden his family in a clump of these ferns. Cinnamon Fern is easily transplanted to gardens for use as an ornamental.

U.S. Range:

