

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Dryopteris ludoviciana - southern shield wood-fern Wood Fern Family (Dryopteridaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G4

	1	2	3	4	5
State		■			
Global				■	
	imperiled		rare		secure



Range: Southeast U.S. from TX east to FL and north to KY and NC

Recognition:

- Leaves have firm, evergreen or nearly evergreen blades up to 1.2 m long
- Fertile and sterile pinnae are dissimilar in that fertile pinnae are narrower and more widely spaced
- Fertile pinnae are found in the upper 1/2 of the frond with sterile pinnae in the lower 1/2
- Sori (clusters of sporangia on the undersides of the fertile pinnae) are round
- Petiole and costa (= rachis or main axis of frond) have conspicuous cinnamon colored scales

Light Requirement: Shade

Sporulating Time: Spring through fall

Wetland Indicator Status:

FACW – usually in wetlands

Habitat:

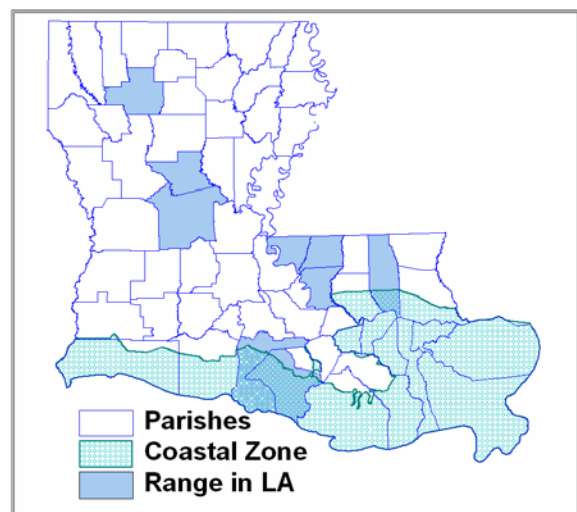
Bottomland hardwood forests, rich ravines in loess hills, prairie terrace loess flatwoods, and forested seeps.

Threats:

- Conversion of habitat to agriculture
- Hydrological alterations

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent conversion of existing natural forests to other land uses
- Maintain natural species composition by following appropriate hardwood management techniques



LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Terrebonne, Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche, Calcasieu, Red, Ouachita

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Fertile pinnae



Dryopteris ludoviciana growing in a forested seep in Bienville Parish.

References:

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