

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ONOCLEA SENSIBILIS
SENSITIVE FERN
Family: Dryopteridaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

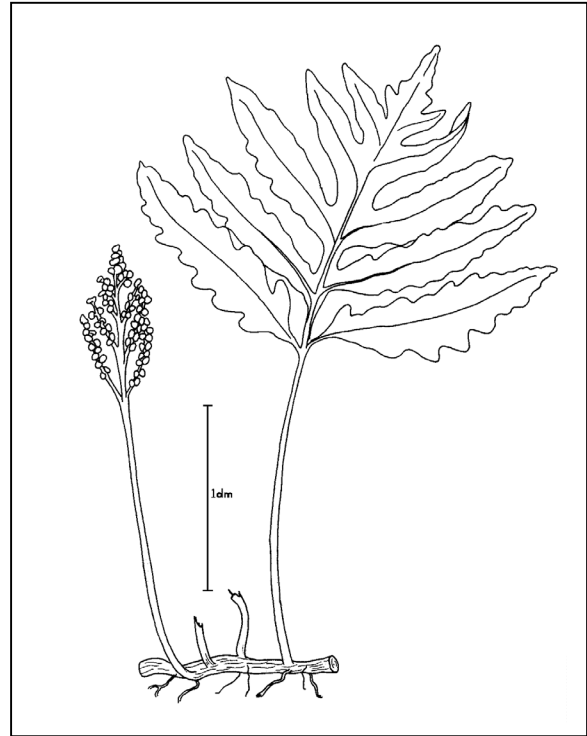
WYNDD Plant List:

Description: Sensitive fern is a perennial fern with strongly dimorphic fronds scattered along a branched rhizome. Vegetative fronds have once-pinnately divided, green, triangular blades 18-40 cm long by 15-35 cm wide with 8-12 pairs of round-lobed or wavy-margined pinnae and a winged rachis. Petioles are shorter than or equal to the fertile blade and reddish brown at the base. Fertile leaves are borne separately on the rhizome and have blades to 17 cm long and 4 mm wide divided into inrolled, globular, ascending sporangia-bearing pinnules. The vegetative blades are extremely sensitive to frost, and wither rapidly, while the fertile fronds become brown and hardened over the winter (Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Larson and Johnson 1999; Lellinger 1985).

Similar Species: *Botrychium* spp. have leaves with a distinct fertile segment borne on the same blade as the vegetative segment. Other Wyoming fern taxa either have twice or more compound or clustered leaves and monomorphic blades (vegetative and fertile leaf blades are essentially identical).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-October

Distribution: Labrador to Manitoba, south to Florida, Texas, South Dakota, and Colorado.



Onoclea sensibilis by Jane Dorn (Dorn & Dorn 1972).

Recently discovered in Wyoming (1999) and currently known only from the Black Hills in Crook County.

Habitat: Marshes, swamps, damp woodlands, and riverbanks, usually on slightly acid soils (Lellinger 1985).

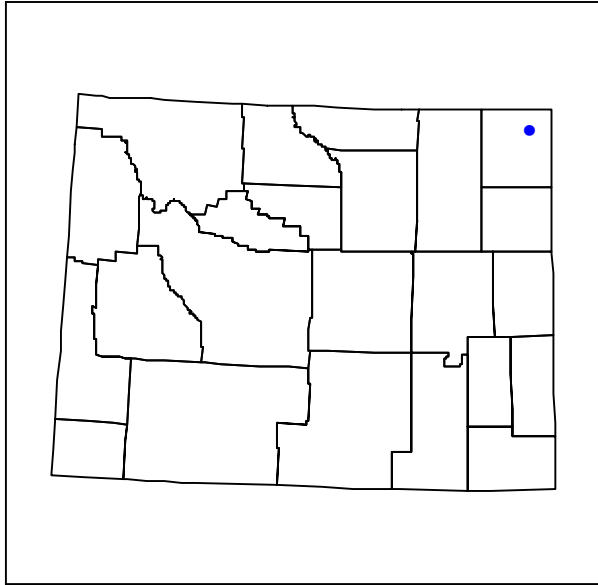
Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single occurrence in Wyoming, discovered in 1999.

Abundance: Abundance is not known, but presumed to be very small given its limited range.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Threats poorly known.



Wyoming distribution of *Onoclea sensibilis*.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Black Hills National Forest.

References:

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Holmgren, N. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual - Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent

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