



Southern Woodfern

Dryopteris ludoviciana

Plant Description – native, fern, deciduous, perennial

Height: 3 – 4 ft **Width/Spread:** 2 – 3 ft



Leaves

Shape: lanceolate

Arrangement: whorled

Margin: lobed

Form: compound

Leaf Description: triangular, shiny, leathery, dark green fronds (leaves); fronds are dimorphic (of two shapes): fertile fronds are upright, up to 3' long, narrower; sterile fronds are reclined, up to 1.5', less narrow; stalk of leaf covered in light brown, papery scales

Flower/Bloom

Not a flowering plant



Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Spores & Rhizomes

Seed Type: Spore-bearing Cone

Fruit and Seed Description: no fruit or seeds, reproduces by spores; spores are found in sori on the bottom of the fronds

Ecological Benefits

white-tailed deer browse leaves during summer; can provide significant cover for wildlife; value of this fern to wildlife appears to be low overall

Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; prefers moist to wet soils at all times (*water three times together*)