



Dennstaedtia punctilobula

eastern hayscented fern

Family Dennstaedtiaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code FACU CoC 2

DESCRIPTION

The soft lacy fronds (leaves) are slightly sticky to the touch, grow from long rhizomes (underground stems), are twice or three-times compound, and form dense colony patches. Fronds are 10 to 90 cm long, with dense reddish-brown hairs along the rachis (main axis of a compound leaf).



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SPORES

The tiny rounded sori (clusters of spore-bearing cases or sporangia) are found on the underside of fertile fronds along the margins.



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HABITAT

Forests, open areas, and drier wetland types.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Athyrium filix-femina, common ladyfern, has a similar lacy-look, but has larger comma-shaped sori, no hairs on the rachis, grows in circular clumps like ladies talking to one another, and lowermost “leaflets” point slightly downward like ladies pointing their toes. *Dryopteris intermedia*, intermediate woodfern, does not have the slightly sticky feel and has evergreen fronds, whereas hayscented fronds die in winter.



Athyrium filix-femina

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