



# Common Ferns of Southwest Nova Scotia

## Identification and Information

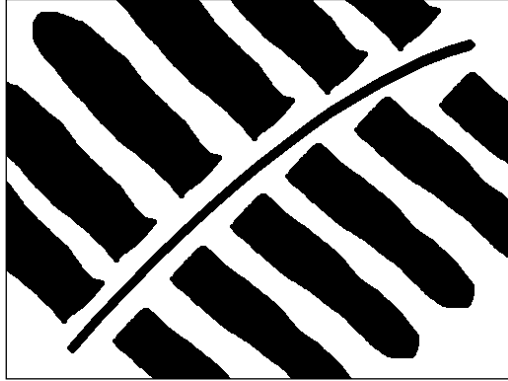
For use with Forest Ecosystem  
Classification manual and wetland delineation

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With special thanks to Tom Neily (MTRI), Sean Blahey (ACCDC), and Eugene Quigley (DNR)



Key Start - Is it once-, twice-, or thrice-cut?

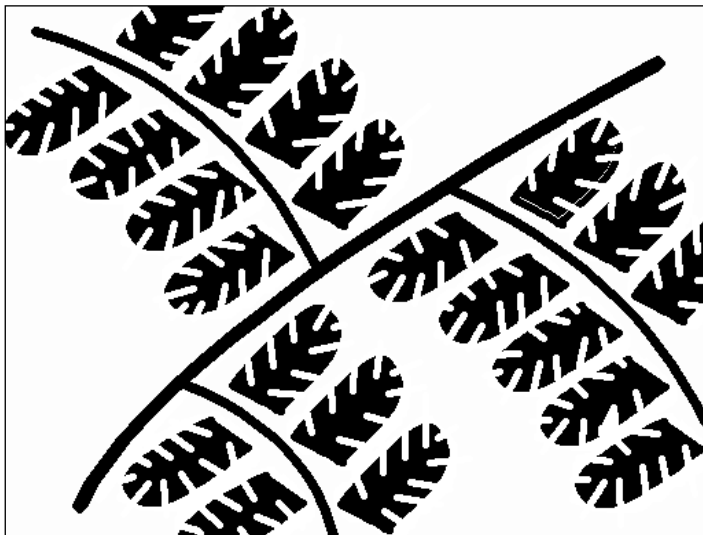
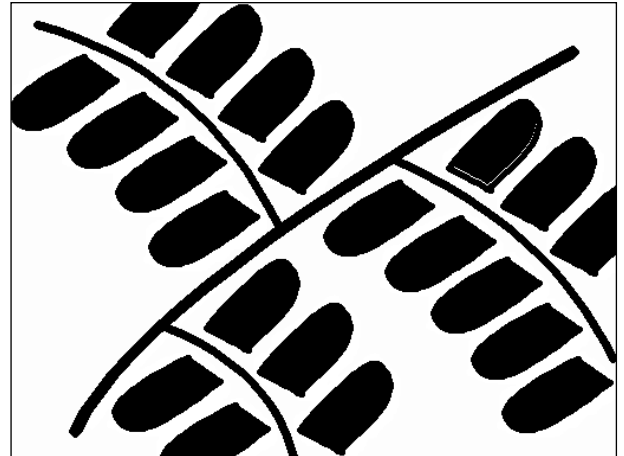


# Once-cut

One single stem part  
See page 3

# Twice-cut

Splitting stem and simple leaves  
See page 4



# Thrice-cut

Splitting stem and complex leaves  
See page 5

Are the leaves quite wavy and almost twice-cut at times?

Yes

No

Are the leaves boot-shaped and is the fern growing in a whorled cluster?

No

Yes

### Christmas fern FACU

Habitat: Fresh/moist, moderate rich to rich woodlands  
Key Features: Medium size, growing in a whorled cluster, boot-shaped leaves



### Sensitive fern FACW

Habitat: Wet, moderate richness, often in richer forested wetlands  
Key Features: Wavy lower leaves, leafy stem, small-medium size, quite wide



Do the leaves have very pointy tips and very small teeth throughout?

No

Yes

### Dwarf chain fern OBL

Habitat: Wet, poor sites, often along edge of wetland/shore  
Key Features: Very pointy leaves, minute teeth, leafy stem, small size

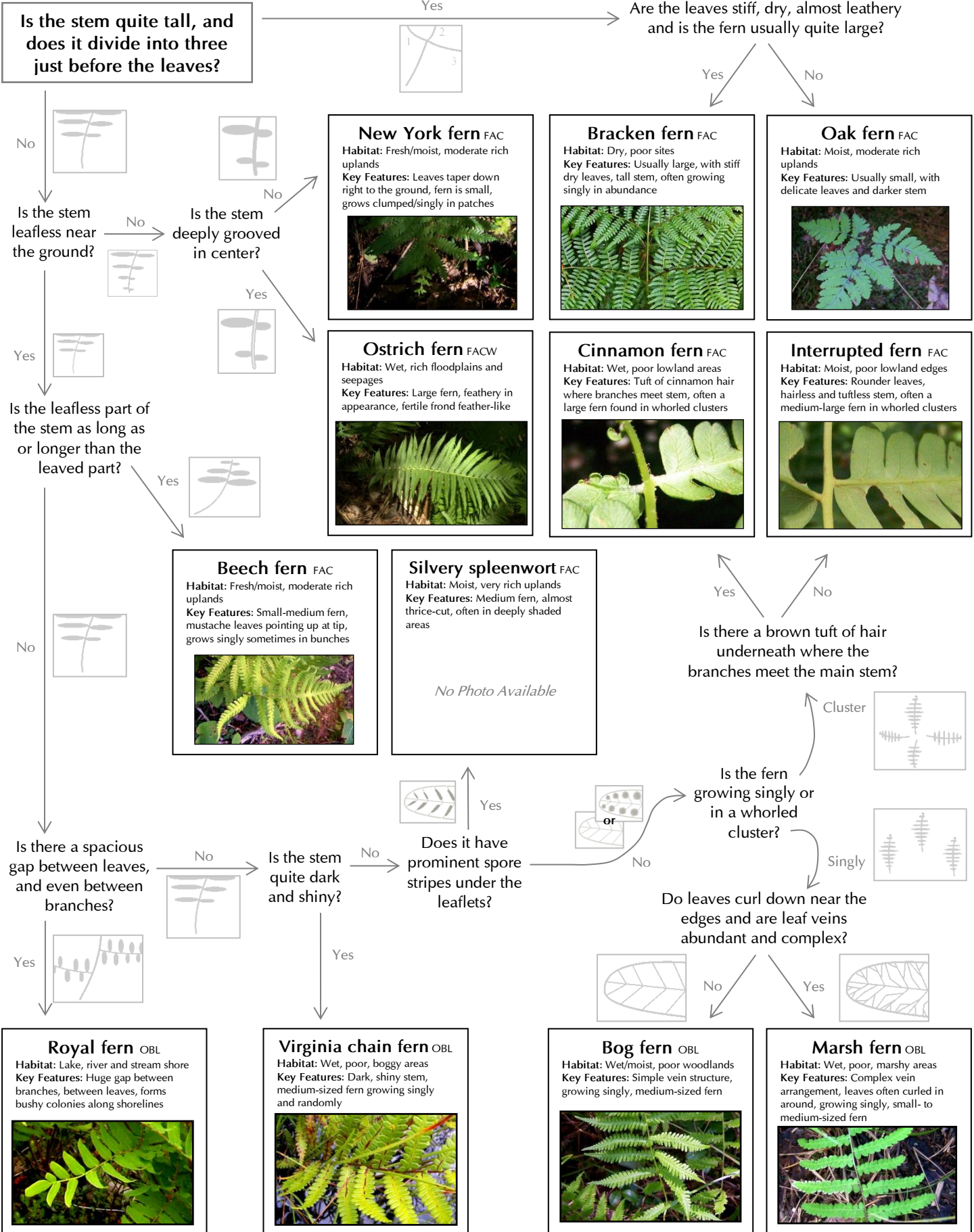


### Polypody UPL

Habitat: Rock- or cliff-tops, often in a thin mat of lichens, mosses and humus  
Key Features: Small size, round leaves, growing singly in bunches



# Twice-cut Key Start



# Thrice-cut Key Start

