

2016 February *Guess that Plant*



Osmunda claytoniana L., Interrupted Fern

The February *Guess that Plant* was one of New Jersey's three *Osmunda* fern species, yet this plant is the least common of the three. Interrupted fern has the unique characteristic of inserting its fertile frond onto the vegetative leaf, "interrupting" the normal vegetative leaf pattern.

The plant is a wetland species (FACW), but it can be found on the drier side of the hydrological gradient, upslope of the other two *Osmunda* species (*Osmunda regalis*=OBL; *O. cinnamomea*=FACW). Mary Hough (1983) list 19 of our 21 counties with documented presence (no vouchers from Cape May and Atlantic Cos). This plant is found in deciduous wetland forests and roadside ditches.

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