

Dennstaedtiaceae (Hay-Scented Fern Family) Key

Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador

© Susan J. Meades, *Flora of Newfoundland and Labrador* (2019)

- 1a. Fronds to 8 dm tall, blades bipinnate-pinnatifid; sori arranged in 1 row on either side of the pinnule costa; each sorus small, spherical, surrounded by a small whitish cup-shaped indusium at the upper margin of each pinnule. *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*
- 1b. Fronds to 15 dm tall, blades ternately compound, each segment tripinnate-pinnatifid; sori marginal and continuous along the pinnules edges; sori covered by a false indusium, formed by the reflexed margin of the blade; a thin inner true indusium may also be present. *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *latiusculum*

Dennstaedtiaceae Comparison Chart

Species:	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> var. <i>latiusculum</i>
	hay-scented fern	eastern bracken fern
Frond	erect; to 8 dm tall, colonial	erect; to 15 dm tall, colonial
Stipe	1–4.5 dm long ; about ½ as long as the blade; hairy when young	to 1 m long ; about equal in length to ½ as long as the blade; hairy when young
Blade	lanceolate, bipinnate-pinnatifid , about 3 × as long as wide; rachis and lower blade surface glandular-pubescent	2–8 dm long; broadly triangular, ternately compound, each branch tripinnate-pinnatifid ; rachis, blade margins and lower surface pubescent
Pinnae	10–25 pairs , lanceolate, pinnules pinnatifid, margins crenate-serrate	10–12 pairs , triangular, lower pinnules pinnatifid, margins entire
Sori	small, globose , terminating a vein at upper margin of each pinnule lobe; indusium cup-shaped to short-tubular, whitish, surrounding the sorus	marginal, continuous along edges of pinnules; outer false indusium marginal, formed by the reflexed pinnule margin ; a thin inner true indusium may also be present