

Onocleaceae (Sensitive Fern Family) Key
Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador

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- 1a. Fronds dimorphic; sterile fronds 30–130 cm long, oblanceolate; blades entirely pinnate-pinnatifid, with 20–60 pairs of pinnae; fertile fronds oblanceolate, 15–40 cm long, feather-like, with 30–45 pairs of linear dark green to brown segments.
 ***Matteuccia struthiopteris*** (ostrich fern)
- 1b. Fronds dimorphic; sterile fronds 13–34 cm long, triangular; blades widest at the base, with 5–11 pairs of pinnae, the lower pinnae pinnate, the upper portion of the frond pinnatifid; fertile fronds narrow, linear, 7–17 cm long, with dark green to blackish, bead-like segments. ***Onoclea sensibilis*** (sensitive fern)

Onocleaceae Comparison Chart

Species:	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>
	ostrich fern	sensitive fern
Sterile Fronds	oblanceolate, 30–130 cm long, pinnate-pinnatifid	triangular, 13–34 cm long, pinnatifid above, lower few pinnae pinnate
# of Sterile Pinnae	20–60 pairs	5–11 pairs
Fertile Fronds	oblanceolate, 15–40 cm long	narrow, 7–17 cm long
# of Fertile Pinnae	30–45 pairs of linear dark green to brown feather-like segments	5–11 pairs of dark green to blackish stiff bead-like segments