



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.

royal fern

Osmunda regalis

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Filicophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The royal fern is a large plant that can grow to six feet tall. Its leaves are in erect clusters and are divided into six or more pairs of leaflets. Each leaflet is further divided into eight or more pairs of widely-spread, rounded subleaflets. The fertile leaves have light brown spore-bearing leaflets at the tip. The yellow or green rachis is thin. The smooth, yellowish stipe is nearly round.

BEHAVIORS

The royal fern may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in swamps, woods and on sandstone ledges. Spores are produced from April through June.

HABITATS

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest