



### Sensitive Fern

*Onoclea sensibilis*

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: Bead Fern

#### Description:

Touch this plant and the tender leaflets close, hence the name; this ferny gem is readily propagated by spores living in large colonies, however it is short lived in each location

#### Ornamental Features

Sensitive Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. Its serrated ferny bipinnately compound leaves remain light green in colour throughout the season.

#### Landscape Attributes

Sensitive Fern is an herbaceous fern with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season.

Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Invasive

Sensitive Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Sensitive Fern foliage*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Sensitive Fern*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

**Ottawa West**  
2079 Carp Road  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K2S 1B9  
Telephone: +1 613 836 6880

**Ottawa East**  
1390 Windmill Lane  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K1B 4V5  
Toll Free: +1 800 267 1922  
Telephone: +1 613 741 4430

**Brockville**  
3043 County Rd. 29  
Brockville, Ontario, Canada  
K6V 5T4  
Telephone: +1 613 341 9343

# **Ritchie**

## **FEED & SEED INC.**

- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
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### **Planting & Growing**

Sensitive Fern will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This species is native to parts of North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division.

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