

Ferns of Nova Scotia

Identification key



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Flora of Nova Scotia

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Key Start

Is the main stem divided into a trophophore
(leafy, photosynthetic portion) and a sporophore
(spore-bearing portion)?

Yes

No

Ophioglossaceae

Moonworts, Grape ferns & Adder's Tongue



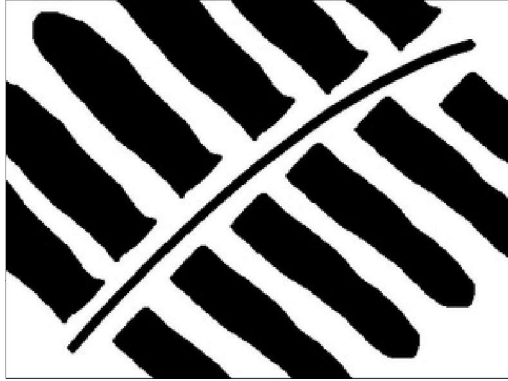
- Simple morphology
- Initial emergence not coiled
- Thick walled sporangia with thousands of spores
- Main stem has the sporophore and the trophophore
- Lacking specialized cells around the sporangium

True Ferns



- Frond emergence in a crozier
- Thin walled sporangia
- Up to 512 spores
- Ring of specialized cells around the sporangium
- Monomorphic - fertile and sterile fronds look the same
- Dimorphic - fertile and sterile fronds look different

True Fern Key Start - Is it once-, twice-, or thrice-cut?



Once-cut

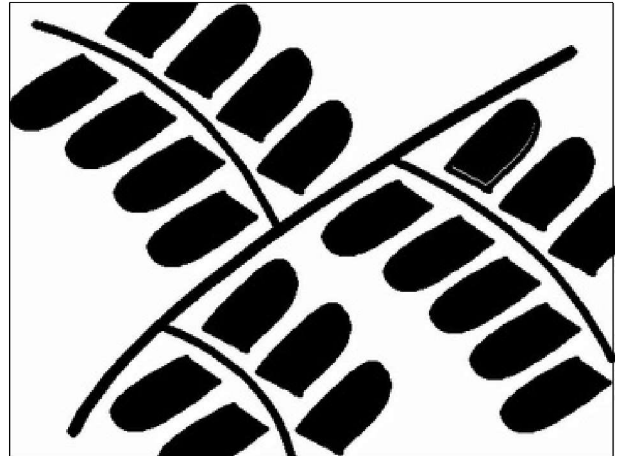
One single stem part

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Twice-cut

Splitting stem and simple leaves

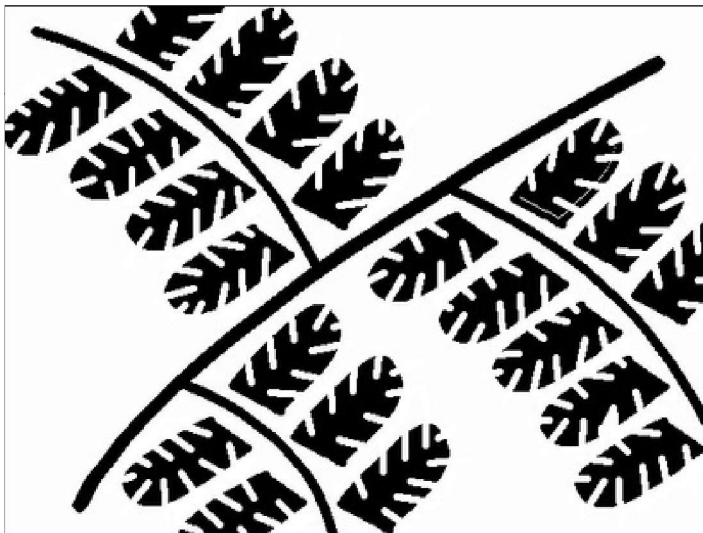
See page 5



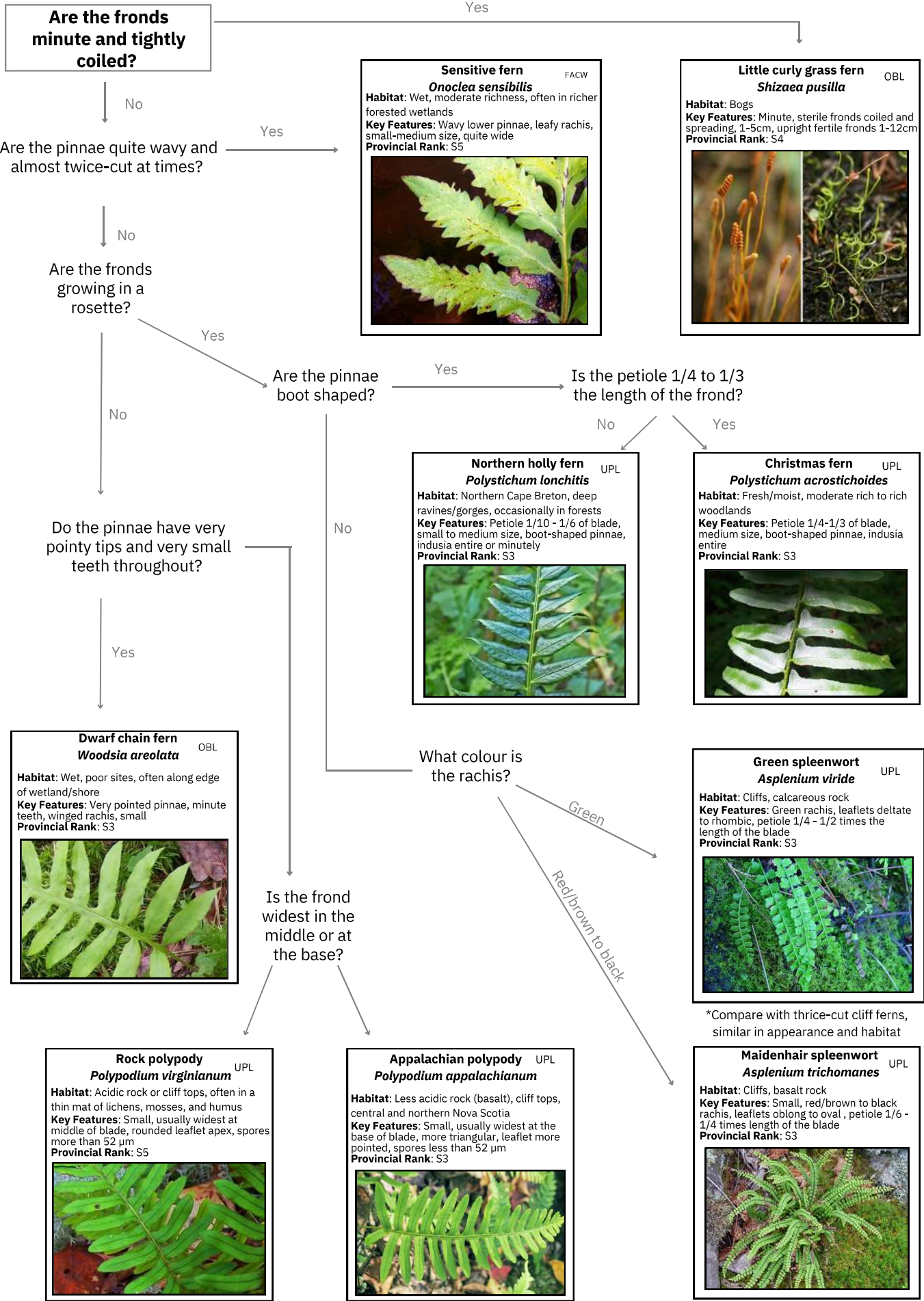
Thrice-cut

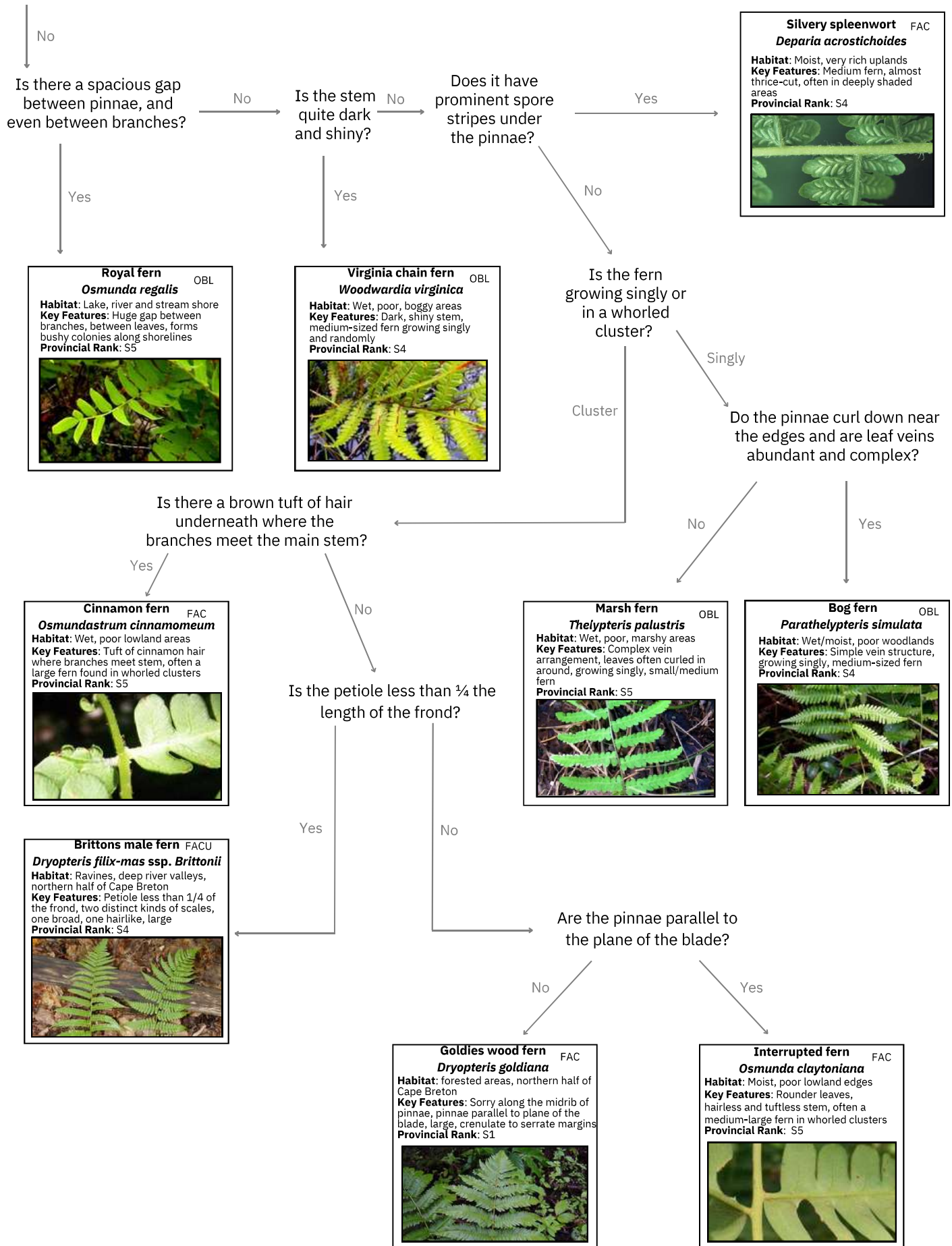
Splitting stem and complex leaves

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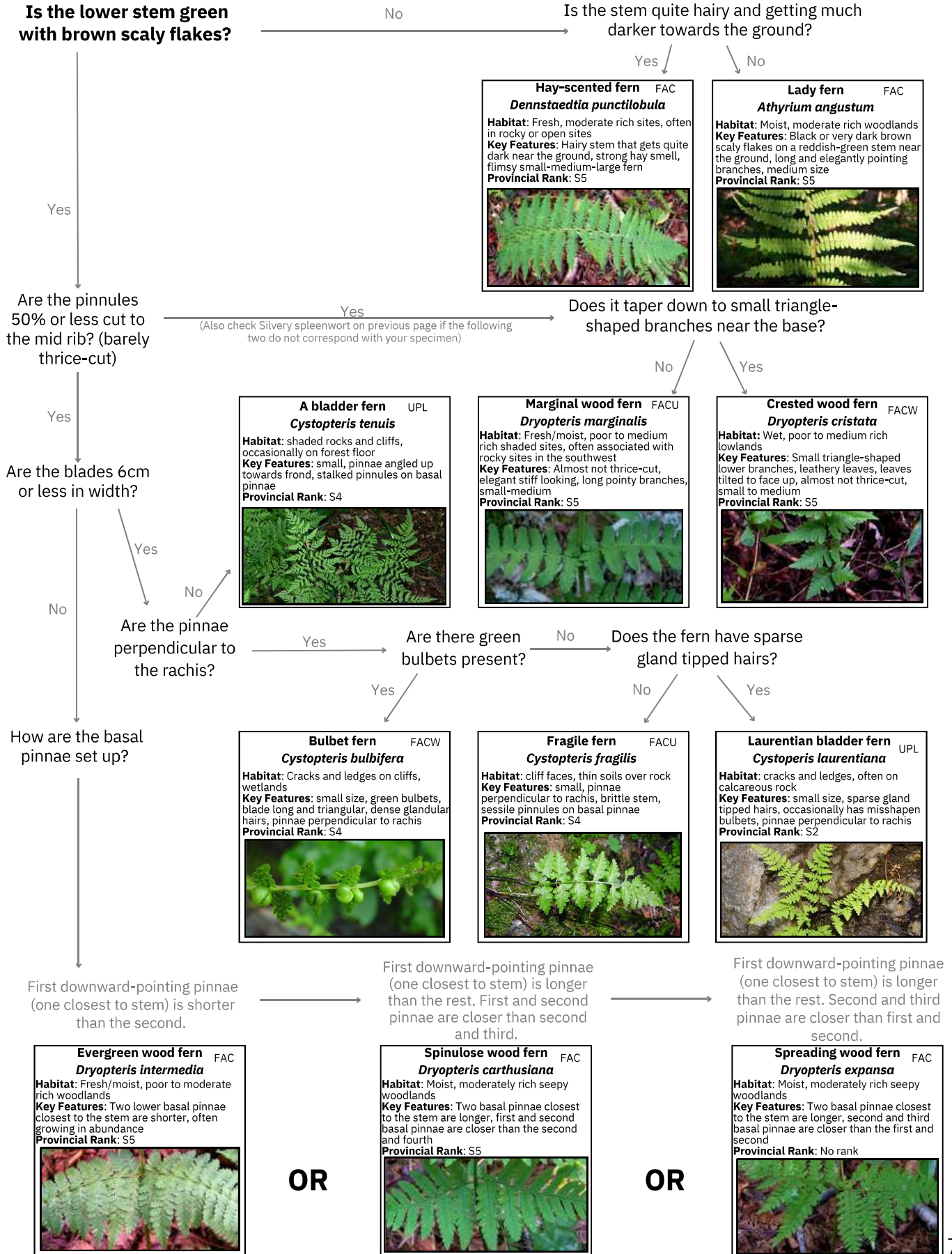
Once-cut Key Start





*easily confused with *D. marginalis*, compare sori position

Thrice-cut Key Start



Picture sources

A bladder fern; Robbin Moran (2024)
Alpine cliff fern; Frank Le Driant (2024)
Appalachian polypody; Marile Lovit (2024)
Brauns holly fern; Arthur Haines (2024)
Brittons male fern; Donald Cameron (2024)
Bulbet fern; Glen Mittelhauser (2024)
Common moonwort; Glen Mittelhauser (2024)
Fragile fern; Arthur Haines (2024)
Fragrant wood fern; Arthur Haines (2024)
Goldies wood fern; Donald Cameron (2024)
Green spleenwort; Arthur Haines (2024)
Laurentian bladder fern; Arthur Haines (2024)
Little curly grass; Uli Lorimer (2009)
Maidenhair spleenwort; Arthur Haines (2024)
Marginal wood fern; Donald Cameron (2024)
Northern Adder's tongue; Peter Dzuik (2006)
Northern holly fern; Al Schneider (n.d.)
Northern maidenhair fern; Donald Cameron (2024)
Rusty cliff fern; Donald Cameron (2024)
Silvery spleenwort; New England Wildflower Society (2024)
Slender rock brake; Arthur Haines (2024)
Smooth cliff fern; Arthur Haines (2024)
Tetraploid beech fern; Arthur Haines (2024)