



***Dryopteris spinolosa* – Wood Fern**

COMMON NAME: Spinulose Wood Fern, Toothed Wood Fern, Spinulose Shield Fern

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dryopteris spinolosa* The genus *Dryopteris* comes from the Greek *drys* meaning tree and *pteris* for fern. This refers to these ferns being found in woodland.

REPRODUCTION: Propagate by division or spores.

SIZE: Medium size. Fronds are 2 to 3 feet long and 6-10 inches broad.

BEHAVIOR: Stout, short rootstock, creeping. Forms graceful, mounding circular clumps. Partially evergreen (when the winter is not too severe).

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Humus-rich soil, moist or wet acidic woods. Moist, rocky slopes. Requires shade.

SPECIAL FEATURES: gorgeous green color and frilly fronds. Note the distinctive glandular hairs on the lower stem. The fertile and infertile fronds look similar with the spores on the underside of the pinnae.

NATURAL RANGE: From Labrador to Virginia and North Carolina, west to Idaho. Not much west of the Mississippi except in Minnesota. Found throughout Wisconsin.

SUGGESTED CARE: Plant in deeply mulched spots, adding a few small stones in the mulch. Provide leafy winter cover.

COMPANION PLANTS: Jack-in-the-pulpit, hepatica, Solomon's plume, spring beauty, Canada May flower.