

common polypody

Polypodium virginianum

FEATURES

The common polypody is a small fern that grows in mats. Each triangular-shaped leaf is about 12 inches long. Leaves may be erect or flat on the substrate. The leathery, dark green leaf is divided into from 10 to 20 pairs of leaflets. The smooth, entire leaflets are about in equal in size from the bottom of the leaf to about halfway along the rachis. Then they become gradually shorter toward the pointed tip.

BEHAVIORS

The common polypody may be found in the southern one-third and northern one-third of Illinois. It grows in shady areas on sandstone rock. Spores are produced from June through October.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Pteridophyta
Class: Filicopsida
Order: Polypodiales
Family: Polypodiaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE





fronds



Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none