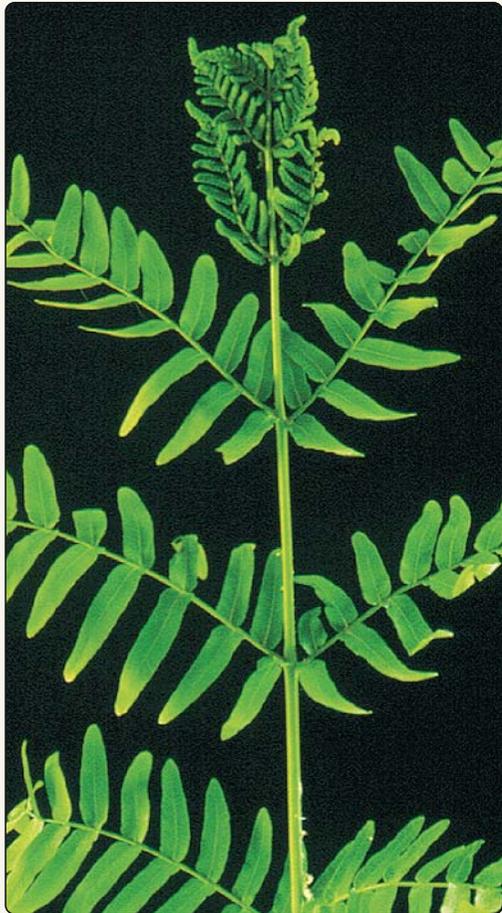


## Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)



*Fronds are feather-like and subdivided twice*

Royal fern is a deciduous fern whose rhizomes form a short woody trunk up to 1.5 m high, bearing large fronds up to 3 m long and 75 cm wide. It grows in wetlands, swamps, stream sides and damp, bare land, especially peaty soils.

The fronds are feather-like, subdivided twice. They are yellow-green, tough and leathery. The spores are produced in brown fertile fronds which look like tiny bunches of grapes, which have green leaflets towards their bases.

The fern should be dug out, taking care to remove all the roots. The rootstock should be dried out and the vegetation mulched. Herbicide can be applied in spring or summer to control the plant. If contamination of water may occur, a consent is required to apply this herbicide from your Regional Council

**The fern is naturalised in New Zealand in relatively few areas, being common in the Waikato Region. Suspected new infestations should be reported to your Regional Council who can give advice on control methods.**