Swamp Fern

*Blechnum serrulatum*

A Florida Native

Stephen H. Brown

Lee County Horticulture Agent
Swamp Fern

*Blechnum serrulatum*

This species is native to the United States, including Florida, the Caribbean, Central and South America.
**Habitat:** Swamplands and upland hammocks

**Light:** Sun or Shade
• In its natural environment, it grows in highly littered soil
• Fronds emerge directly from the soil
Blechnum serrulatum

a. Mature frond
b. Young frond
• It is a large fast-growing fern that grows to 4 feet tall
• The fronds tend to grow upright
The swamp fern is characterized by its odd-pinnate fronds consisting of 20-40 paired leaflets.
This pinnate fern has a single apical leaflet
Leaflets are stiff and crinkled with very short petioles
The leaflet margins are finely serrated
• The swamp fern is a good choice for damp acid soil with plenty of compost added to the soil

• Use it to cover low areas

• It is considered a “weedy” fern by some horticulturists