Swamp Fern

**Synonym:** None Found  
**Origin:** Native to Florida, the Caribbean, Central and South America  
**U.S.D.A. zone:** 8a—12b  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen  
**Messiness:** N/A  
**Salt Tolerance:** Low  
**Drought Tolerance:** Low  
**Nutritional Requirements:** Likes acidic soils  
**Potential Pests:** None  
**Typical Dimensions:** 36”-48” high  
**Propagation:** Dividing rhizomes, spores
This is one of the most common ferns found throughout much of Florida. It makes an excellent groundcover in large moist sites at the edges of ponds, swamps, and marshes. It is an upright fern capable of growing to 4 feet in height. The fronds are pinnate with a single, apical leaflet. The leaflets are crinkled with serrated edges. The new growth is coppery pink in color becoming dark green. The swamp fern grows best in moist, shady sites with plenty of compost. In full sun it requires moist to wet conditions. The fronds grow shorter and more leathery in the sun and taller and more pliable in shade but they grow readily in either condition. The swamp fern easily spreads into areas that support its growth. Periodically remove old fronds to maintain best appearance.
The swamp fern is capable of growing up to 4 feet tall.

The fronds grow taller and more pliable in shade.

Other views of the fern.