

Dryopteris affinis

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous, terrestrial ferns. **Rhizomes** stout, erect, often covered in dead stipe bases. **Stipes** 100–400 mm long, pale brown. Stipes and rachises densely covered in orange-brown scales. **Laminae** elliptic or narrowly elliptic, 2-pinnate, 0.3–1.25 × 0.15–0.3 m, glossy yellowish green to dark green. **Primary pinnae** in 25–50 (or more) pairs, narrowly triangular or ± oblong, tapering at apices, sessile, 80–150 × 20–30 mm, with a darkish patch near junction with rachis when fresh. **Secondary pinnae** in 15–30 pairs, oblong, adnate or decurrent on pinna midrib, obliquely truncate at apices, ± entire or sparingly toothed only at apices, to 15 × 7 mm; secondary pinnae on the basal pair of primary pinnae ± equal in length either side of midrib. **Sori** round, 1–5 pairs on each secondary pinna, often confined to upper pinnae, covered by reniform indusia which are rolled under sporangia when young.

HABITAT

Widespread weedy fern of mostly easterly parts of New Zealand. Often in urban areas where it grows along streams or in wasteland. Also colonised plantation forestry, gullies and coastal forest.

GENUS

Dryopteris

FAMILY

Dryopteridaceae

AUTHORITY

Dryopteris affinis Newm.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1980

ORIGIN

Europe, Asia

ETYMOLOGY

affinis: From the Latin ad + finis 'to the boundary', means 'neighbouring', 'allied to', 'akin to'

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

DRYAFF



REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey P.J. 1988. In: Webb C.J., Sykes W.R., Garnock-Jones P.J. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (10 November 2012). Description adapted from Brownsey in Webb et al. (1988).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dryopteris-affinis/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026