

# Dryopteris affinis - Scaly Male-fern



## Plant description

Scaly male-fern grows in tufts of slightly stiff fronds 60-120cm in length. The species is distinguished from other ferns by the blunt edged pinnules upon the frond. In addition to this there is a dense covering of scales on the stem that are golden to rusty brown in colour.

## What does this tell me about my woodland?

The fern grows in moist soils with lots of organic matter. Scaly Male-fern is an Ancient Woodland Indicator species in some parts of England.

**pH** – Mildly acidic to neutral

**Occurs in NVC Communities** – W9, W10, W11, W16, W17