

Pteridium esculentum



Pteridium esculentum: Common Bracken

Family: *Dennstaedtiaceae*

Genus: *Pteridium* from the Greek *ptēris* (a fern).

Species: *esculentum* from the Latin *esculentus* (edible) in reference to the young croziers which were thought to be edible. However they contain toxic chemicals and are considered poisonous.

The upper surface of the lamina is glossy dark green and the lower surface dull.

The fern is widespread from coast to non-arid inland areas. It is an invasive weed of agricultural land.



Stipes are spaced widely on the rhizome allowing the fern to spread rapidly and widely



Dull lower surface of frond

Flora of Australia Volume 48: Ferns, Gymnosperms and Allied Groups,
Australian Ferns: Growing them Successfully by Calder Chaffey,
A Field Guide to Australian Ferns: Volume 1 by Calder Chaffey.