

# netted chain-fern

## *Woodwardia areolata*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Pteridophyta  
Class: Filicopsida  
Order: Polypodiales  
Family: Blechnaceae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### FEATURES

The netted chain-fern is an upright plant with leaves about 24 inches long and six inches wide. Each green leaf is divided into 10 or more pairs of leaflets. The leaflet is thin, sharp-pointed and has a wavy margin. The third pair of leaflets from the base of the leaf is usually the longest. The rachis is green-brown and slightly scaly. The stipe is longer than the leaf. It is yellow-green above and red-brown at the base with a few scales.

### BEHAVIORS

The netted chain-fern may be found in Johnson and Pope counties in Illinois. It grows in marshy areas in lowland woods and on sandstone cliffs. Spores are produced from July through October.



fronds

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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## **Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

## **Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands;  
upland deciduous forests

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none