

# Walking fern

*Asplenium rhizophyllum*

5 to 30 cm

Species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec



## CHARACTERISTICS

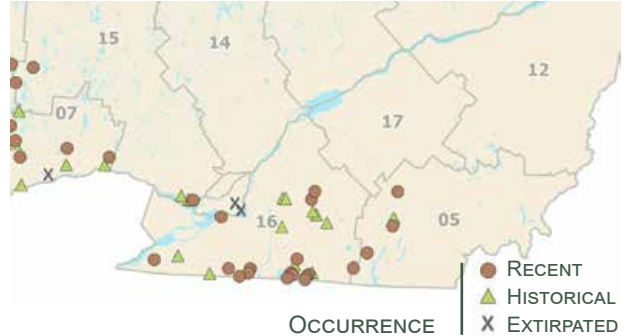
- Small fern growing on large rocks or cliffs.
- Undivided leaf, forming a long, tapering triangle.
- Its tip, rooted in moss, gives rise to a new plant.



## OBSERVATION PERIODS

IDENTIFICATION | At all time when there is no snow cover (persistent foliage)

## DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



## HABITAT

Rocky limestone woodlands:

- Dry maple and cedar stands
- Area of thin soil on rock, outcrops, boulders or cliffs.



## MAIN THREATS

- Habitat loss (urban development, cottages, stone quarrying).
- Forest practices not adapted to species sensitivity.

## MANAGE YOUR FOREST WHILE PROTECTING AT-RISK FLORA

Your woodlot contributes to the protection of forest species in precarious situations. It is often preferable to avoid forest management interventions in their habitats. If such activities must be carried out, the protection of these species requires the following precautions:

### STEP 1: IDENTIFY AND LOCATE THE SPECIES

Onsite, during the appropriate identification period, locate all the plants of the species (or have this done by a competent person). Then outline the zones where they are found (occupied zones) as well as the surrounding buffer zone.



### STEP 2: PROTECT THE PLANTS

This species requires particular attention. It is listed as a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable because the available information suggests that its survival is compromised.



### STEP 3: AVOID MAJOR DISTURBANCES in the occupied and buffer zones

- Ø Landing (wood piling) areas
- Ø Forest road construction
- Ø Forest drainage
- Ø Clearcuts
- Ø Scarification of the forest floor



### STEP 4 : ADAPT PRACTICES BASED ON SPECIES SENSITIVITY

#### Sensitivity to opening of the forest canopy

Low to moderate

#### Sensitivity to drainage pattern changes

Low to moderate

#### Sensitivity to trampling and mechanical damage

High

#### IN THE OCCUPIED AND BUFFER ZONES

- Opening of the forest canopy is allowed. Use partial cuts or low-intensity thinning to maintain shade and its beneficial effect on soil moisture.

#### IN THE OCCUPIED ZONE

- Carry out forestry operations in winter, on frozen ground, and keep machinery out of this zone, given the species' sensitivity to physical damage.
- Avoid leaving logging residues (branches, etc.).



If the plant cannot be identified or located, apply the protection measures to the entire forest stand.

Advise forest workers about plant locations as well as protection measures to apply.

This fact sheet was developed through the integration of scientific elements and discussions between experts from the MRNF and the MELCCFP. The recommendations may evolve as new knowledge becomes available. For references, please visit [afm.qc.ca/fiches-paf-bonifies](http://afm.qc.ca/fiches-paf-bonifies).