



Dwarf Scouring Rush

Equisetum scirpoides L.

The dwarf scouring rush belongs to a very small group of plants, the horsetails and scouring rushes (genus *Equisetum*) that are utterly different from any other plants on Earth. These plants grow with peculiar jointed stems, and the remnant leaves look like small scales ringing the stems at the joints. Like ferns, they reproduce by spores. An argument has been raging for years now as to whether they should be considered part of the ferns or entirely separate. The surviving plants are only a tiny portion of the numbers of species that once dominated much of the earth, growing to tree size and constituting entire forests.

This plant has an interesting appearance. It's very small, usually not over 4-5 inches tall, and the stems are often twisted and curled. It loves moisture.

The dwarf scouring rush is native to northern climes, occurring up into subarctic areas all the way around the world. The southernmost limit is at about the southernmost shores of the Great Lakes

This plant is easy to grow given an adequate supply of moisture. It prefers sandy and humus-rich soils but will tolerate most soils. It also grows very well as a potted plant.



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