



Variegated Scouring Rush

Equisetum variegatum

Schleich. ex Weber & Mohr

The variegated 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 is similar to but much smaller than the rough scouring rush, *Equisetum hyemale*, that is common in Ohio.

The variegated 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.



12691 Dutch Creek Road
Athens, OH 45701
www.fivespringsfarm.com
fivespringsfarm95@gmail.com
740.594.603