

Plymouth Gentian

Sabatia kennedyana

STATUS

Threatened 

Endangered 

69



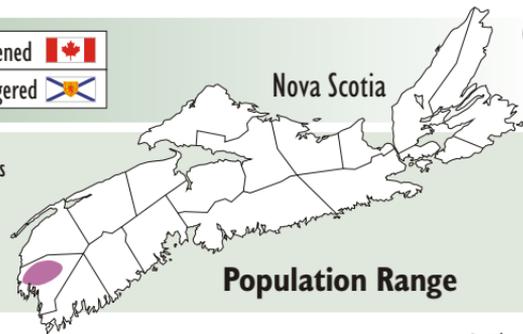
Basal rosette

Species Description

Plymouth Gentian has opposite, lance-shaped leaves and a basal rosette (cluster of leaves on the ground). Each plant produces an average of 1-3 flowers at the end of a long flowering stalk (20-35 cm tall). The flowers are pink with yellow centres, and have 9-11 petals that are 2-3 cm long.



Found along the shorelines of 12 lakes in southwest Nova Scotia, especially in the Tusket River watershed.



Population Range

Habitat

Occurs on gently sloping infertile shorelines that are typically sand, gravel, peat, or cobblestone. It is generally found in areas with high levels of natural disturbance (seasonally fluctuating water levels, wave action, ice scour), which washes nutrients from the soil and removes competing vegetation.



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Plymouth Gentian is typically found on rocky or sandy shorelines. Look for its flowers between mid-July and mid-September. Learn to recognize its basal rosette so you can locate this species when it is not in flower.

Interesting Points

- Crab spiders are camouflaged by the colouration of Plymouth Gentian flowers. They sit motionless in open flowers and wait for insect pollinators to prey upon.
- Some plants produce a rare, white flower.



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Similar Species

Pink Coreopsis:

Endangered ACPF species found in similar habitat; has daisy-like narrow petals with no yellow at the base.



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Plymouth Gentian (left)

Pink Coreopsis (right)

Virginia Meadow-Beauty:

ACPF species found on peaty lake margins and in bogs; large yellow stamens; four large petals.



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Virginia Meadow-Beauty

Threats to Survival

- Cottage development and its associated activities, land clearing and road building.
- Nutrient, sediment, and pesticide runoff from cottages, forestry practices, and agricultural operations.



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How You Can Help

Recognize and be aware of ACPF species and their habitat. Reduce shoreline disturbances (leave a natural vegetation buffer, do not drive OHVs along shorelines). Obtain all the necessary permits before altering the shoreline. Install and maintain septic systems and avoid using pesticides and fertilizers.



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Field research

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or sightings@speciesatrisk.ca

Stewardship: Nova Scotia Nature Trust, www.nsnat.ca