

ATLANTIC
COASTALPLAIN
FLORA

Redroot

Lachnanthes caroliniana

STATUS	Not Listed 	Not Listed 
Special Concern 	Vulnerable 	Not Listed 



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Species Description

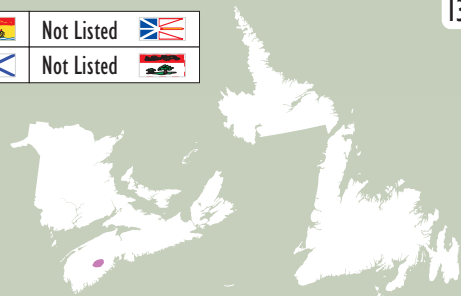
Redroot has long, narrow, vertically oriented leaves up to 20 cm tall. When flowering, a 20-40 cm pale green stalk arises from the base and contains a cluster of 10-30 light yellow flowers at its top. The upper section of the stem and the flowers are covered in pale yellow hairs.



Red underground 'roots' (rhizomes)

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Found along the shores of seven lakes in southwestern Nova Scotia.



Habitat

Occurs on peat, sand, and gravel shorelines. It is most commonly found on southwest facing peat or gravel cobble beaches. It is often found growing in meadows of Twigrush (*Cladium mariscoides*).



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The majority of Redroot plants along each shoreline do not produce flowers. Its long flowering stalk and flowers can be observed in August and September.

Interesting Points

- Like many species of ACPF, Redroot reproduces mainly by vegetative means and not by sexual reproduction (seeds).
- The name Redroot refers to its slender, blood red rhizomes (underground stems).
- Its latin name is from the Greek *lachne* and *anthos*, meaning “woolly-flower”.



Flower progression

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Similar Species

When not in flower these species look very similar to Redroot:

Blue Flag Iris:

White roots (rhizomes). Reaches heights of 50-80 cm but small plants look very similar. Large purple/blue flowers.

Golden Crest:

White roots (rhizomes). Blue-green leaves that are purplish-tinted at the base. See page 137 for more details.



Blue Flag Iris



Golden Crest

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Threats to Survival

- Shoreline and shrub-zone alterations (shrub/tree removal, infilling, rock walls, mowing/raking, docks/launches, lawns, decks, patios, OHVs) can destroy or degrade suitable habitat.
- Nutrient run-off (from agriculture operations, septic tanks, land clearing, lawns, roads) can increase lake nutrient levels which encourages the growth of common, weedy plants and algal blooms.



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ACPF Shoreline Survey on Hog Lake

How You Can Help



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Minimizing or avoiding lawns, particularly adjacent to the shoreline, will greatly reduce runoff (lawns allow up to 55% runoff, compared to areas with natural vegetation where only 10% of rainwater flows into the lake). Constructed rock or concrete walls eliminate shoreline habitat and alter natural water currents. Maintaining natural vegetation and shoreline structure is a simple, inexpensive way of preventing shoreline erosion, and maintaining good water quality in your lake.

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: AC CDC (506) 364-2658, or NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora

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

Stewardship: Nova Scotia Nature Trust: nature@nsnt.ca, MTRI: info@merseytobeat.ca