



Nova Scotia's low nutrient, high disturbance shorelines and wetlands contain some of the most diverse ACPF habitat in Canada. ACPF species are mainly found along the lakeshores, salt marshes and freshwater wetlands in the southwest part of the province. For several species, Nova Scotia has some of the most intact and largest remaining habitat for these species in the world. By maintaining these habitats on our properties we help ensure that this distinct and diverse group of plant species are not lost.



Lakeshores

ACPF most commonly occur along lakeshores that are gently sloping and composed of sand, cobble, gravel or peat and in areas that receive high levels of natural disturbance such as ice scour, seasonally fluctuating water levels, and wave action. They are able to survive in nutrient poor environments, and are generally out-competed by more aggressive species in nutrient rich environments. One way to maintain lake water quality and shoreline habitat is to preserve the natural vegetation along the lakeshore and 30 m up from the shore.

Some ACPF species are found growing in the water, including Purple Bladderwort (page 37), Bayonet Rush (page 75), and Thread-like Naiad (page 18).



Gently sloping shoreline on Wilson's Lake with Plymouth Gentian

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Bayonet rush growing in the water along the shore of Hog Lake

© MEGAN CROWLEY



Molega Lake

© MEGAN CROWLEY



Agard Lake

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Other ACPF species can be found in wetlands adjacent to the lake, including Swamp Rose (page 56) and Long's Bulrush (page 83). Note: Long's Bulrush and Swamp Rose can be found in non-wetland areas along the lakeshore as well.



Swamp Rose along a shoreline wetland on Agard Lake © MEGAN CROWLEY



Long's Bulrush growing in a wetland along Lac de l'École © MEGAN CROWLEY

ACPF are not always found on gently sloping lakeshores. They can grow in rocky areas or in rock barrens along the lakeshore like Broom Crowberry (page 49).



Broom Crowberry rock barren on Shingle Lake © SEAN BLANEY



Redroot along a steeper rocky lakeshore on Molega Lake © MEGAN CROWLEY



Wetlands

A wetland is an area that is waterlogged, partially or completely covered by water for all or part of the year. The Canadian Wetland Classification System organizes freshwater wetlands into five types: bogs, fens, swamps, marshes and shallow water. Wetlands are areas of high biodiversity and are important for filtering and maintaining clean water. Many ACPF species are found in freshwater wetlands. Some occur in the most waterlogged areas where competition from other species is low. The ACPF species at risk that occur in wetlands are primarily located in bogs and fens.



Thread-leaved Sundew habitat at Port Latour bog © MEGAN CROWLEY

v Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Habitat

© MEGAN CROWLEY



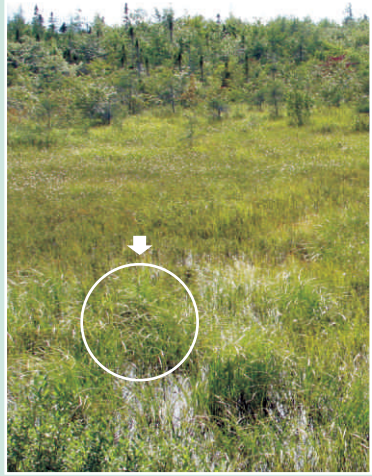
Golden Crest fen near Digby

© SEAN BLANEY



Button Sedge marsh

© MEGAN CROWLEY



Long's Bulrush at Eighteen Mile Brook



Salt Marshes

Salt marshes are low lying areas that are in the transition zone between the land and the ocean. The plants that grow in salt marshes are adapted to living in salty (saline) conditions. Some ACPF species are found along the inland edges of salt marshes, including Saltmarsh Virginia Wild Rye (page 71) and Groundseltree (page 46) but many occur throughout including Saltmarsh False-Foxglove (page 1) and Rich's Sea-Blite (page 32).



Marsh Elder salt marsh near West Pubnico

© SEAN BLANEY



Salt marsh near the Tusket River with Groundseltree

© MEGAN CROWLEY



Salt marsh near Port Latour with Rich's Sea-Blite

© MARTIN THOMAS



Morris Island salt marsh

© MARTIN THOMAS



Other Habitats

ACPF also occur in habitats such as river shorelines, rock barrens, estuaries, forests, and sand barrens. The “other” habitat icon is used in this guide only when the species is not found in lakeshores, wetlands or salt marshes. If a species found in lakeshores, wetlands or salt marshes is also found in other habitats they will be noted in the habitat section on the page (but the 'other' habitat symbol will not appear on the page).

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Skunk Cabbage forest habitat. ACPF forest species are typically in fairly wet areas.

© MEGAN CROWLEY



Mild Water-pepper along the Tusket River

© DAVID PATRIQUIN



Golden Heather rock barren

Estuaries are areas along the coast where rivers enter into the ocean. The freshwater from the river mixes with the salty water of the ocean to create a somewhat salty (brackish) environment. Eastern Lilaeopsis (page 13) is an ACPF species at risk that is found in estuaries. It is generally located on gentle, muddy slopes in the intertidal zone that are exposed and then submerged under water with the tides. Marsh Elder (page 54) is also found in estuaries.



Roseway River estuary with Eastern Lilaeopsis

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Eastern Lilaeopsis in the brackish Pleasant Lake

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