



This guide is divided into three sections:

- Herbs** (non-woody plants),
  - Shrubs** (woody plants) and
  - Grass-like plants** (graminoids).
- Each section is organized by alphabetical order of the scientific name.

The counties in NS where the species have been observed are highlighted. Species may not always been documented in all counties in which they occur. New county records are of interest and can be submitted to MTRI or AC CDC with supporting details.

**1** **2**

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**Golden Crest**  
*Lophiola aurea*

NS General Status Rank: Threatened  
RBS: NON-WOODY PLANTS



**STATUS**  
Threatened (Canadian Flag)  
Threatened (Nova Scotia Flag)

**SIZE:** 30-60 cm tall.  
**LEAVES:** Long, narrow, basal leaves (grow from the base) that are blue-green with a reddish tinge at the bottom, up to 30 cm long and 2-5 mm wide.  
**STEM:** Flower stalk slender, covered in white woolly hairs, and higher than the leaves.  
**FLOWERS:** Golden yellow and small (1 cm wide) in a cluster at the top of the flower stalk. The flower cluster is branching, 5-10 cm wide, and covered in white woolly hairs.  
**FRUITS:** Straw-coloured seeds, 1 mm long.  
**NOTES:** Non-flowering (vegetative) plants are much shorter without the flowering stalk (up to 30 cm tall).



**Habitat:** Found along lakeshores and in wetlands (fens). Lakeshore habitat includes gently sloping cobble and peaty substrates and bays of lakes that become filled with peat. Also occurs on floating mats of peat.  
**Interesting Point:** Can be recognized by its dried flower stalks from the previous year.



Flower



Vegetative plant

**Similar Species:**

The vegetative plant can look similar to Redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*, page 12) and small Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*), however both these plants have white underground stems (rhizomes) rather than red. Golden Crest leaves are a paler blue-green than Redroot and are often somewhat hairy in their lower half.



Redroot (left), Blue Flag Iris (right)



Dried flower stalks



Golden Crest wetland

**4**

All the provinces where the species is found are noted.

**3**

**Canadian Flag symbol:**  
*Species at Risk Act* or *Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)*  
**Nova Scotia Flag symbol:**  
*Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act*

Line drawings are included for each species with identifying features pointed out on them.

Refer to page ix to see a diagram of common leaf shapes.

If there is another common name or scientific name that this species is also known as, the name is listed in the NOTES section.

- 1** This circle indicates the main habitat(s) in which the species is found in: **Lakeshores, Wetlands, Salt Marshes, and Other** habitats (such as estuaries, rock barrens, or forests). If a species is found in more than one of these habitats, the circle is split to show multiple icons. The “other” habitat icon is used if 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).



- 2** The scientific name is listed for each species at the top of the page under the common name. Each scientific name has two parts, the genus name and the species name (i.e. *Carex bullata*). Species closely related to each other have the same genus name. Sometimes there is var. (variety) or ssp. (subspecies) after the species name which refers to plants that have the same genus and species name but that have distinctions in their appearance that make them slightly different from one another.
- 3** ACPF species that are listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* or provincial *NS Endangered Species Act* have a status box under their name. The status of species changes over time and this guide is current as of March 2011. The categories include:

**Extinct:** No longer living anywhere on the planet.

**Extirpated:** No longer living in a particular regions (province, country) but still exists elsewhere.

**Endangered:** Facing imminent extinction.

**Threatened:** Likely to become endangered if the threats to its survival are not reversed.

**Special Concern /Vulnerable:** Sensitive to activities that may make it endangered or threatened.

**Not at Risk:** Not at risk of extinction.

For more information refer to “Species at Risk in Nova Scotia: Identification and Information Guide” (page 90), or visit [www.speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca), [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca) and [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/at-risk-overview.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/at-risk-overview.asp).

- 4** All species in NS are assessed through the General Status Assessment Process and receive a colour rank based on how healthy and secure their populations are in this province. This can help identify species that may be at risk so that attention can be brought to them in an attempt to prevent further decline. The status ranks are:

**RED** (At Risk): Species that are at risk of extinction/extirpation.

**YELLOW** (Sensitive): Species that are not believed to be at risk of immediate extinction/extirpation but that may require protection to prevent them from becoming at risk.

**GREEN** (Secure): Species that are not believed to be at risk.

**GREY** (Undetermined): Species for which insufficient data, information, or knowledge is available to reliably evaluate their status.

**BLUE** (Extinct/Extirpated): Species that are no longer thought to be present in the province or in Canada. Extirpated species have been eliminated from a given geographic area but may occur in other areas. Extinct species are extirpated worldwide.

For more information visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/genstatus/>.