

CAPE BRETON PRIVATELAND PARTNERSHIP

Nova Scotia At-Risk Plants

Black Ash (*Fraxinus Nigra*)

Status

- Threatened (NS)

Species Description

- Broad leaved hardwood trees
- Average heights of 2.5m to 15.5m
 - Slow growing tree
- Leaves are opposite and compound with 7-11 oval to lance-shaped leaflets
 - Leaflets have no stalk
 - Clusters of rust-coloured hairs are visible where leaflets meet the petiole
- Trunk is grey in colour
 - Smooth to corky texture on young trees
 - Scaly texture on mature trees
- Produce inconspicuous flowers in clusters at branch tips in the spring before leaves open
- Fruit is winged, flat and single seeded



Threats

- Habitat loss and alteration
- Emerald ash borer
 - Exotic Asian beetle which in larval stages feed on inner bark thus disrupting water and nutrient flow
 - Has killed more than 50,000,000 ash trees in eastern North America in both urban and forested areas
- Targeted harvest in the past
- Die back

Habitat Characteristics

- Typically found in poorly drained areas that experience season flooding
- Prefers peat and muck soils
- Will also grow on fine sands over sands and loams
- Preference for swampy woodland stream and river banks with moving water
- Associated with Red Maple, Speckled Alder, Balsam Poplar, and Black Spruce
- Shade intolerant
- Seedlings, saplings and sprouts tend to regenerate only in partially opened forest canopies

Resources

- General Info: [Species at risk - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)
- Status Report: [Name and Classification \(novascotia.ca\)](#)
- Recovery Plan: [Black Ash Recovery Plan Nova Scotia.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)
- Core Habitat: [Core habitat Addendum Black ash.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

Hoary Willow (*Salix Candida*)

Status

- Endangered (NS)

Species Description

- Deciduous low to mid-sized shrub
- Can be 0.3-2.5m tall
- Densely white and woolly on twigs and lower leaf surfaces
- Mature leaves are usually 4x longer than they are wide
- Flowering occurs at the same time as leaf emergence
- Long-lived perennial species
- Male and female flowers are produced on separate plants



Threats

- Alteration of hydrology
- Grazing
- Browsing
- Recreational use
- Alteration of natural fire regime
- Invasive species
- Forestry practices

Habitat Description

- In NS, habitat is restricted to the unique alkaline fens and floodplains of the Black River watershed at the northwest end of Lake Ainslie
- The Black River watershed is also home to the Black Ash

Resources

General Info: [Species at risk - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)

Recovery Plan: [RECOVERY PLAN Hoary Willow Final 19Feb2021.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

Ram's-Head Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium Arietinum*)

Status

- Endangered (NS)

Species Description

- Small, herbaceous perennial orchid
- Stems are 15-30cm in height
- Have 3-4 leaves
- Flowers are solitary and relatively small
 - Sac-like lip petal of the flower is white above and purple/crimson below
 - Elongated into a downward pointing conical shape



Threats

- Gypsum mining
- Forestry practices
- Cattle grazing
- Competition with exotic species

Habitat Description

- Prefer moderately open forests
- Cool, sub-acid or neutral soils
- Associated with gypsum bedrock in NS
- Found on outcrops, cliffs, river banks, moderate to steep slopes and sinkholes
- Forest cover can consist of deciduous or coniferous-dominated or mixed-wood stands

Resources

- General Info: [Species at risk - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)
- Status Report: [Microsoft Word - Cypripedium arietinum-Jan07-small.doc \(novascotia.ca\)](#)
- Recovery Plan: [Ram_sheadLadySlipper_FINAL_Recovery_Plan_24Sept2020.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)