

Redroot

Lachnanthes caroliniana

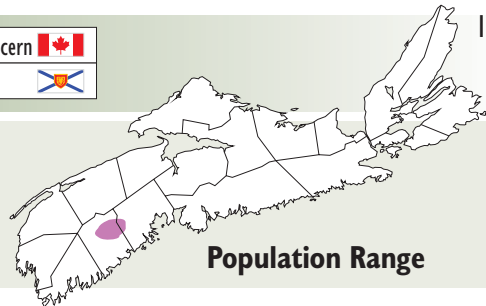
STATUS

Special Concern 

Vulnerable 

123

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



Population Range

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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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.

It is most commonly observed without flowers



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Red underground 'roots' (rhizomes)



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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”.



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Flower progression

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 (page I27):

White roots (rhizomes). Blue-green leaves that are purplish-tinged at the base.



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 8 of 13



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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: NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora, www.speciesatrisk.ca/stewardshipguide

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

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