



Golden Crest

Lophiola aurea



Species Description

Golden Crest is a perennial plant with long, narrow, vertically-oriented, grass-like leaves. Its leaves are blue-green with a reddish tinge at the base and reach heights of 30 cm. Small yellow flowers occur at the top of long flowering stalks (up to 60 cm tall) that are covered in white woolly hairs. Flower clusters are 5-10 cm wide.



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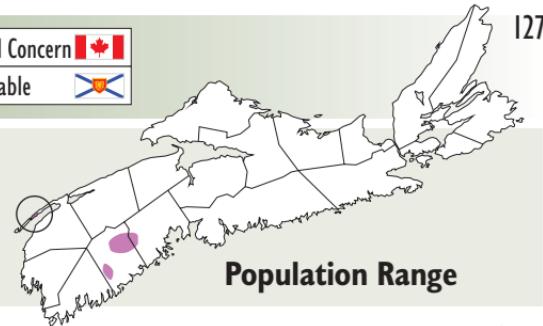
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Lakeshore habitat

Golden Crest is found in wetlands and along lakeshores. Look for its flowers from August to September. It sometimes occurs with other rare species, such as Redroot.

STATUS

Special Concern	
Vulnerable	



Population Range

Habitat

Occurs on gently sloping cobble lakeshores, fens, and bay bogs (bays of lakes that become filled with peat). It grows on substrates such as sand, peat and floating peat mats.



Wetland habitat



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Interesting Points

- Stands of Golden Crest on Brier Island have been locally extirpated.
- Flowers in late summer and adds colour to the shoreline after most other flowers have stopped blooming.
- When not in flower, it can be distinguished from other species in the spring by the presence of its dried fruiting stalks from the previous year.

Similar Species

Pearly Everlasting:

Has woolly hairs but flowers small with brownish centres. Found in upland habitats.



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Redroot (page I23):

Bright green leaves with no red at the base and red roots (rhizomes).

Iris:

White roots and green leaves with no red at the base.



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Golden Crest

Redroot



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Threats to Survival

- Shoreline and shrub-zone alterations (removal of trees and shrubs, infilling, rock walls, mowing/raking, docks/launches, lawns, decks, patios, OHVs) can destroy or degrade suitable habitat.
- Nutrient run-off encourages the growth of common, weedy plants and algal blooms (page 130).
- Wetlands habitat may be threatened by cranberry growing operations, OHV use and peat mining.



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Flower close-up



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White woolly hairs

How You Can Help 10 of 13

There are many actions we can take to help the species at risk that share our province with us. Learn more in the stewardship guide, "Healthy Lakes and Wetlands for Tomorrow" (page vii), which was written for landowners, with an emphasis on ACPF, Blanding's turtles and Eastern Ribbonsnakes and provides simple and key actions that benefit the wild species and wild spaces of NS.



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Golden Crest monitoring on Digby Neck

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: Healthy Lakes and Wetlands Guide: 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