



# Plymouth Gentian

*Sabatia kennedyana*



© NSAT (BOTH)

## Species Description

Plymouth Gentian has opposite, lance-shaped leaves and 1-3 flowers at the end of a long flowering stalk, 20-35 cm tall. Each flower has 9-11 pink petals that are yellow near the base. When not in flower, this species is observed as a cluster of leaves on the ground (basal rosette).



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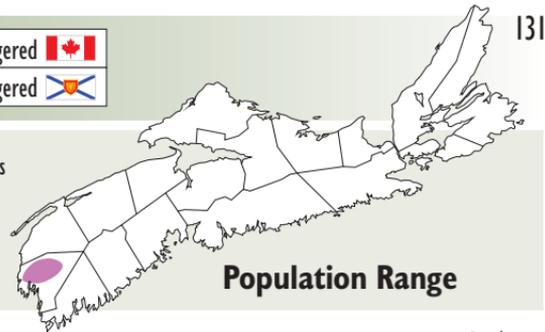
Basal rosette

**STATUS**

Endangered 

Endangered 

Found along the shorelines of 11 lakes in southwest Nova Scotia in the Tusket River watershed.



**Population Range**

## Habitat

Occurs on gently sloping infertile shorelines that are typically sand, gravel, peat, or cobblestone. It is generally found in areas with high levels of natural disturbance (seasonally fluctuating water levels, wave action, ice scour), which washes nutrients from the soil and removes competing vegetation.



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Plymouth Gentian is typically found on rocky or sandy shorelines. Look for its flowers between mid-July and mid-September. Learn to recognize its basal rosette so you can locate this species when it is not in flower.

## Interesting Points

- Crab spiders are camouflaged by the colouration of Plymouth Gentian flowers. They sit motionless in open flowers and wait for insect pollinators to prey upon.
- Some plants produce a rare, white flower.



Crab spider with a catch



## Similar Species

### Pink Coreopsis (page I13):

Endangered ACPF species found in similar habitat; has daisy-like narrow petals with no yellow at the base.



Plymouth Gentian

Pink Coreopsis

### Virginia Meadow-Beauty:

ACPF species found on peaty lake margins and in bogs; large yellow stamens; four large petals.



Virginia Meadow-Beauty

## Threats to Survival

- Shoreline and shrub-zone alterations can destroy or degrade suitable habitat (see examples on page 114).
- Nutrient run-off (agriculture operations, septic tanks, land clearing, lawns, roads) can increase lake nutrient levels which encourages the growth of common, weedy plants and algal blooms.



## How You Can Help

Water Quality Part II. Run-off that can increase lake nutrient levels is a significant threat to ACPF and their habitat. Lakeshore owners can ensure that septic tanks are well maintained, use phosphate-free cleaning products, maintain the natural vegetation around the lakeshore, build roads well away from the lake, and avoid chemical fertilizers.

Phosphorous levels have increased up to 1000-fold on some lakes in NS over the last 5 years.



Water quality monitoring training session

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** NS DNR (902) 679-6091

**Info:** [www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora), [www.speciesatrisk.ca/stewardshipguide](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/stewardshipguide)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings)

**Stewardship:** Nova Scotia Nature Trust: [nature@nsnt.ca](mailto:nature@nsnt.ca), MTRI: [info@merseytobeatric.ca](mailto:info@merseytobeatric.ca)