

# Check out the rare wildflowers along the peninsula

The Northern Peninsula offers a wide variety of landscapes from north to south and because of this diversity, the region is home to a variety of rare and unique wildflowers.

Botanists and wildflower enthusiasts who have visited the region are continually delighted in their treks across limestone barrens and bogs, through forests, and on beaches.

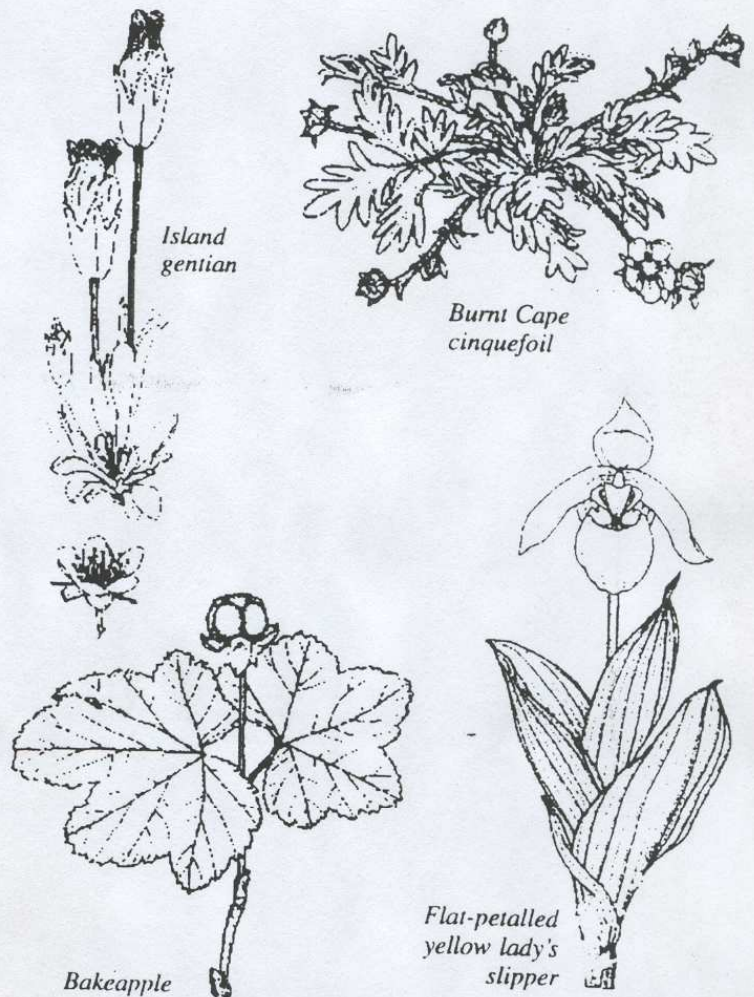
Three of the nine eco-regions in the province are found on the Northern Peninsula. They are the Long Range Barrens, the Northern Peninsula Forest, and the Strait of Belle Isle Barrens.

The latter eco-region, much of which is underlain with limestone, is where most of the interesting plants are. Specifically, the area from Plum Point to the tip of the peninsula is of particular interest.

Also found in the region are cordilleran species which also call the Rocky Mountains home. A decrease in the tree height is visible as one drives north from Gros Morne. Starting with full-size trees in the south, one encounters smaller trees known as tuckamore and eventually, barrens, which are the result of increased exposure to frost, wind, and cold.

Some of the areas in which interesting species are found include:

◆ Just north of Bellburns, the old coastal road gives access to the rocky shoreline and limestone barrens which



feature the rare Hooker's orchid, the flat-petalled yellow lady's slipper (golden slipper), mountain avens, dwarf willows, crowberry, and bearberry.

◆ Point Riche, near Port au Choix, where the sparse barrens feature the sunflower-like seabeach groundsel, sea rocket, seabeach sandwort, oysterleaf, beach pea, and beach-head iris. Also found on the shoreline along Ingornachoix Bay are spurred gentian, island gentian, and hooded ladies'-tresses.

◆ Cape Norman, at the tip of the peninsula, is known for its native orchids, including the blunt-leaf orchid, frog orchid, and small round-leaf orchid. The surrounding barrens also offer the pink pyrola and velvet bells.

◆ L'Anse aux Meadows features bakeapples, Swedish and Alaskan bunchberry, roseroot, and alpine bearberry. The road to L'Anse aux Meadows is also home to several types of saxafrages.

◆ Burnt Cape, located near Raleigh, boasts several plants unique to Newfoundland, including the Newfoundland orchid, Fernald's Braya, and the Burnt Cape cinquefoil, its only known site in the world. Burnt Cape is also the only Newfoundland site for the Arctic dwarf hawk's beard.