

Rare plants, wildflowers thrive in the North

When most people think of the Northern Peninsula and Southern Labrador, they conjure up images of Vikings, fishermen, icebergs and down-to-earth people.

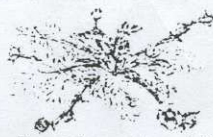
But ask a botanist about the region, and they'll be quick to tell you that the wind-swept coastline, rocky plateaus, and marshlands are home to many unique and interesting plants and wildflowers.

It's because of the region's diverse landscape, from the heights of Gros Morne Mountain in the south to the limestone barrens near the northern tip of the peninsula, that there are so many different forms of vegetation.

Botanists and wildflower enthusiasts who visit the region on a regular basis are continually delighted in their treks across bogs, through forests, and along beaches.

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

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



Burnt Cape cinquefoil



Bakeapple



Flat-petalled
yellow lady's
slipper



Island gentian

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 Ingomachois 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 home to several types of saxafrages.

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