



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY

Plants Along the Niagara Escarpment and the Bruce Trail

Thursday June 11, 2020



MISSION

**Preserving a ribbon of wilderness,
for everyone, forever.**

VISION

The Bruce Trail secured within a permanently protected natural corridor along the Niagara Escarpment.

VALUES

Commitment | Integrity | Stewardship | Collaboration | Respect

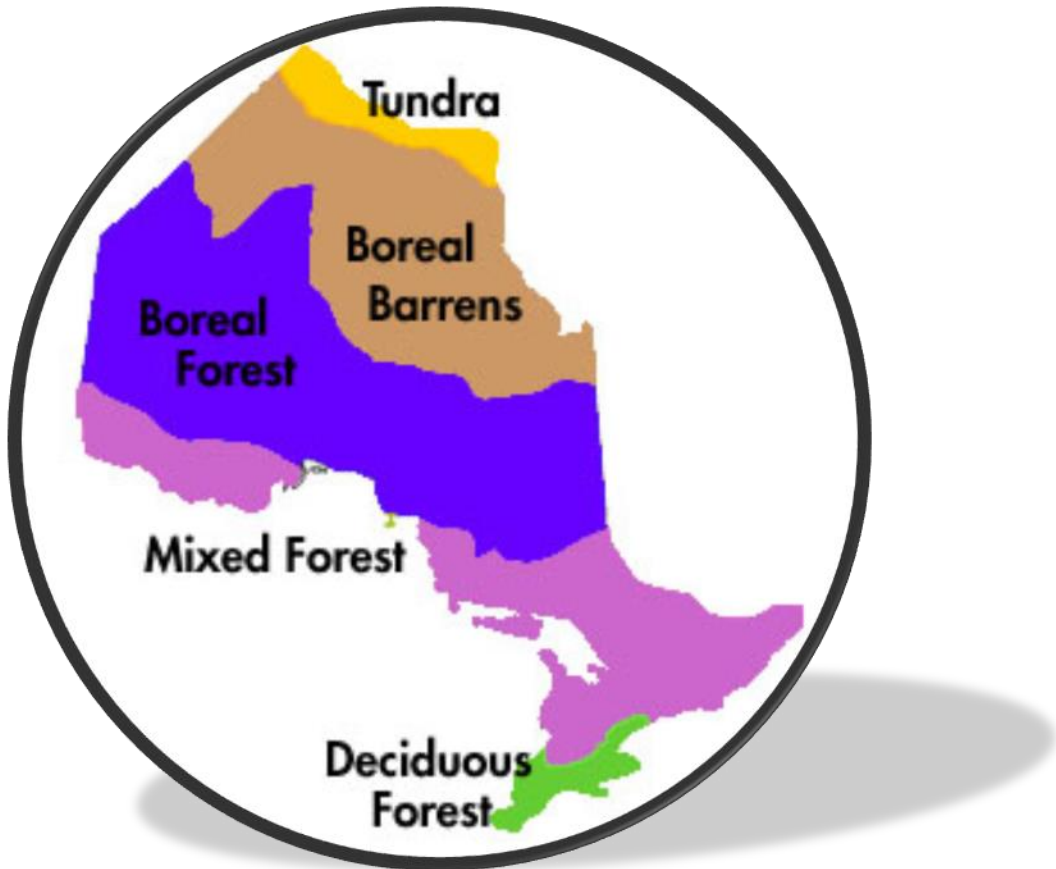


The Niagara Escarpment

- Over 1500 species of vascular plants (including 40% of Ontario's rare flora)
- The oldest trees in Canada east of the Rocky Mountains
- 44 of the 65 species of Orchids in Ontario
- 50 fern species



A Ribbon of Wilderness



The Bruce Trail crosses through two different Life Zones :

Deciduous (Carolinian) Forest - which has 25% of Canada's population and just 0.25% of its area. Has more endangered and rare species than any other life zone in Canada.

Mixed Forest (Great Lakes - St Lawrence Life Zone) - This is the second largest forest zone in Ontario, containing 19% of the provinces forests. It covers approximately 20 million hectares (~50 million acres) and is the transitional zone between the southern Deciduous (Carolinian) forest and the northern Boreal forest.



Deciduous Forest Trees





Deciduous Forest- Plants



*Wild
Strawberry*



*Spring
Beauties*



Wild Ginger



*Blue
Cohosh*



*Yellow
Trout Lily*



Mayapple



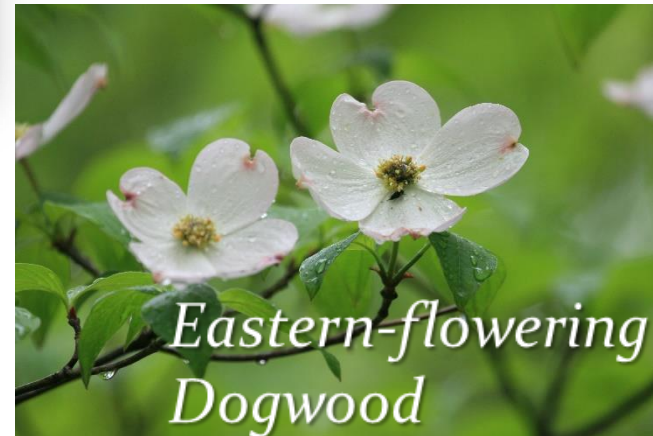
*Running
Strawberry
Bush*



*Canada
Mayflower*

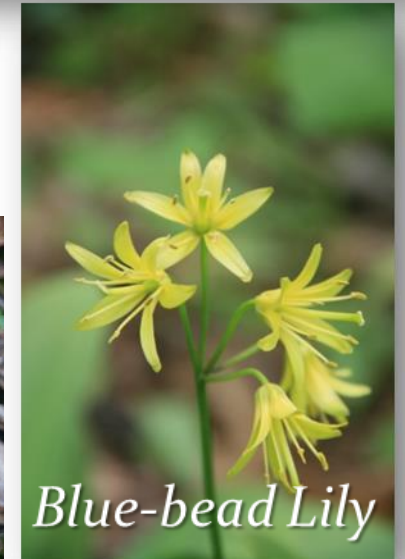


Deciduous Forest- Carolinian Zone





Mixed Forest- Mixed Forest Zone





Trilliums – 4 species



White



Red



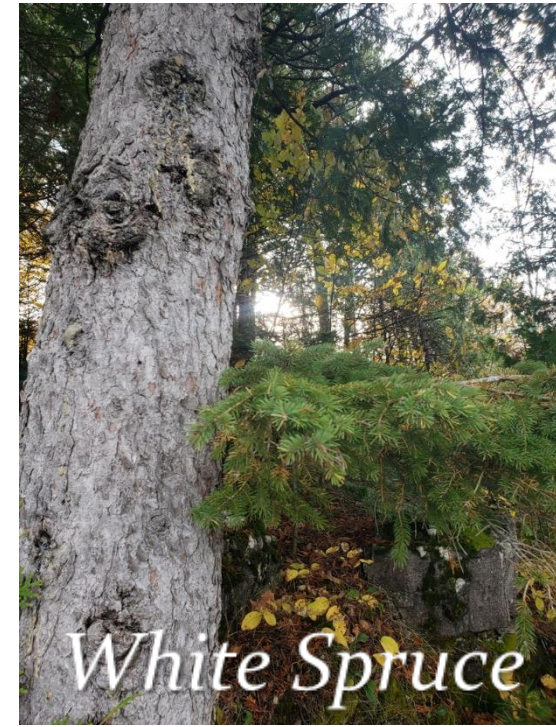
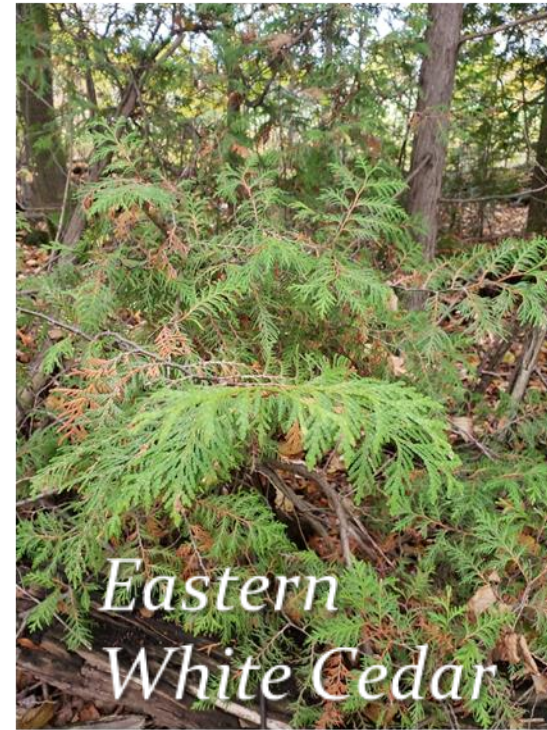
Painted



Nodding



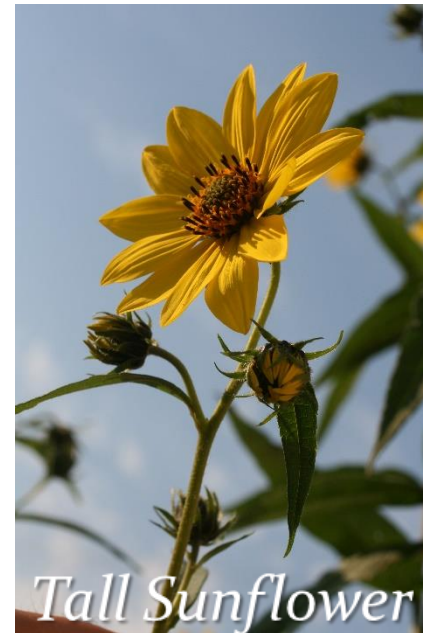
Coniferous Forest Trees





Tallgrass Prairie

- In Ontario, tallgrass prairie and savanna, including alvars (calcareous prairies), once covered at least 1,000 km²
- Today only about 30 km² remains in approximately 200 highly fragmented known remnant sites





Meadows



Fleabanes



Birdsfoot Trefoil



Common Milkweed



Red Clover



Meadow Buttercup



Goldenrods in the meadow



Grass leaved Goldenrod



Canada Goldenrod



Rough stemmed Goldenrod



Grey Goldenrod



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Goldenrods in the forest

Blue stemmed Goldenrod



Zig Zag Goldenrod

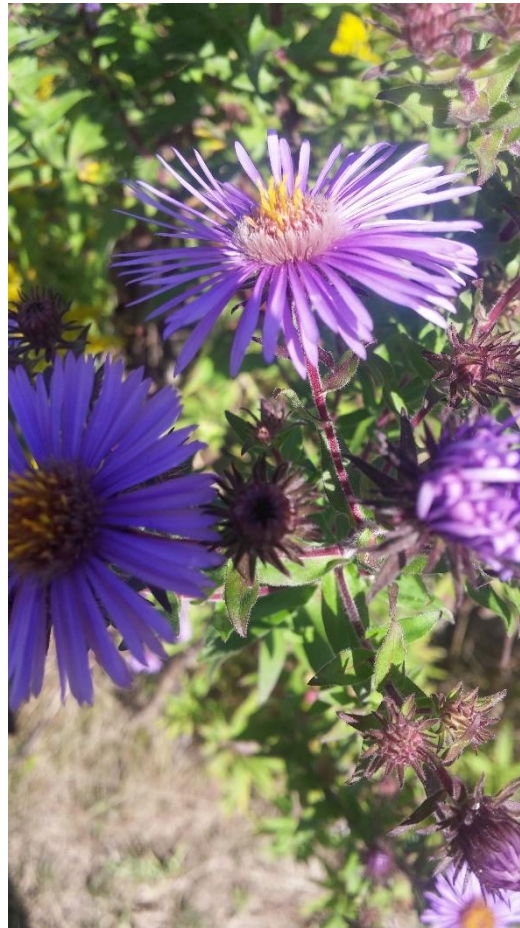




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Asters in the meadow

New England Aster





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Frost or Old Field Aster





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Panicled Aster

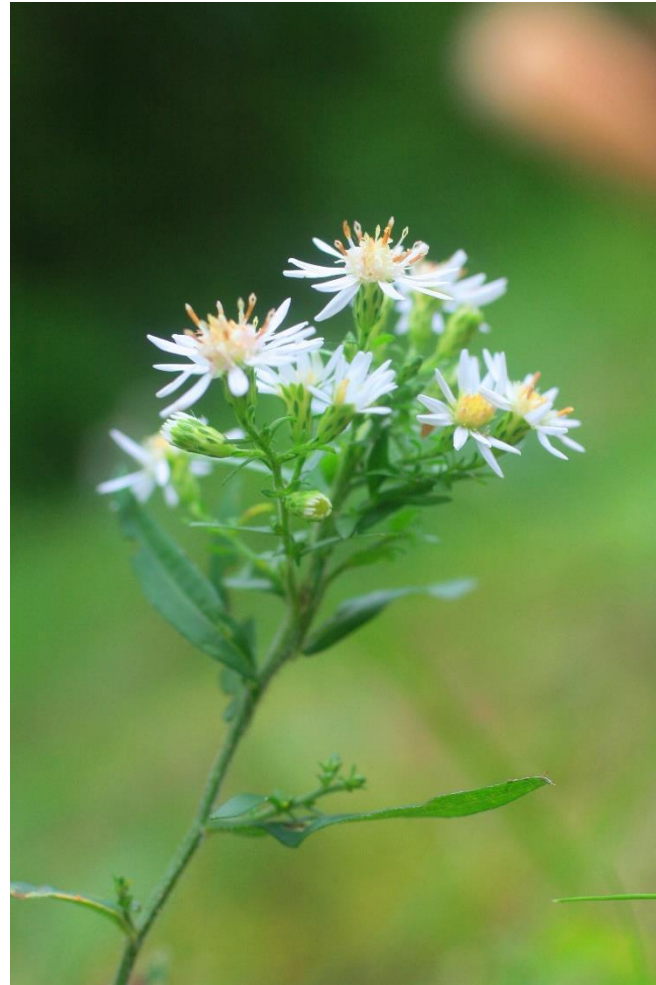




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Asters in the forest

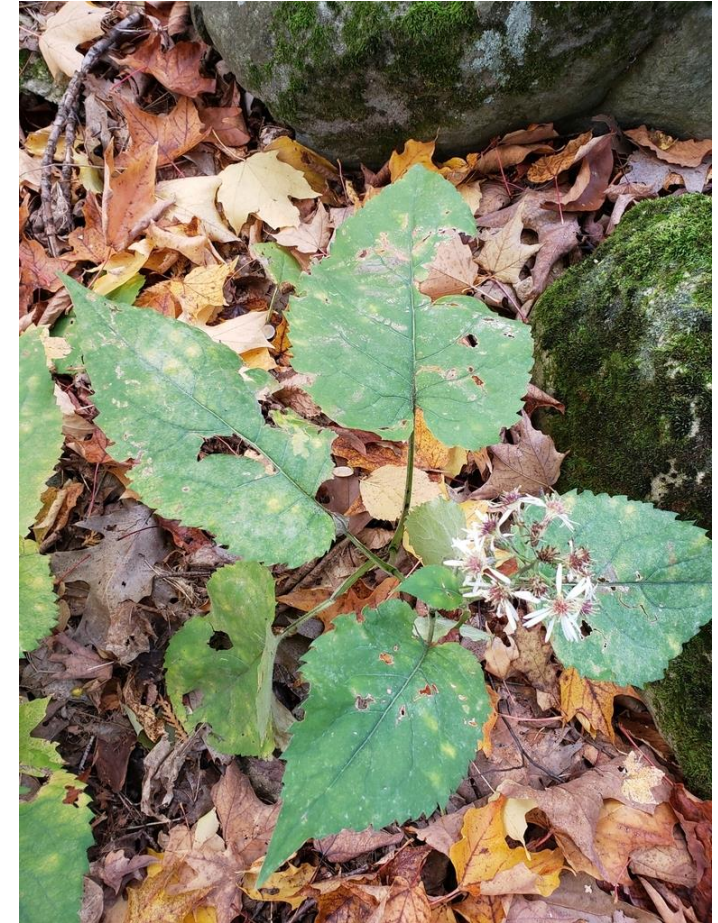
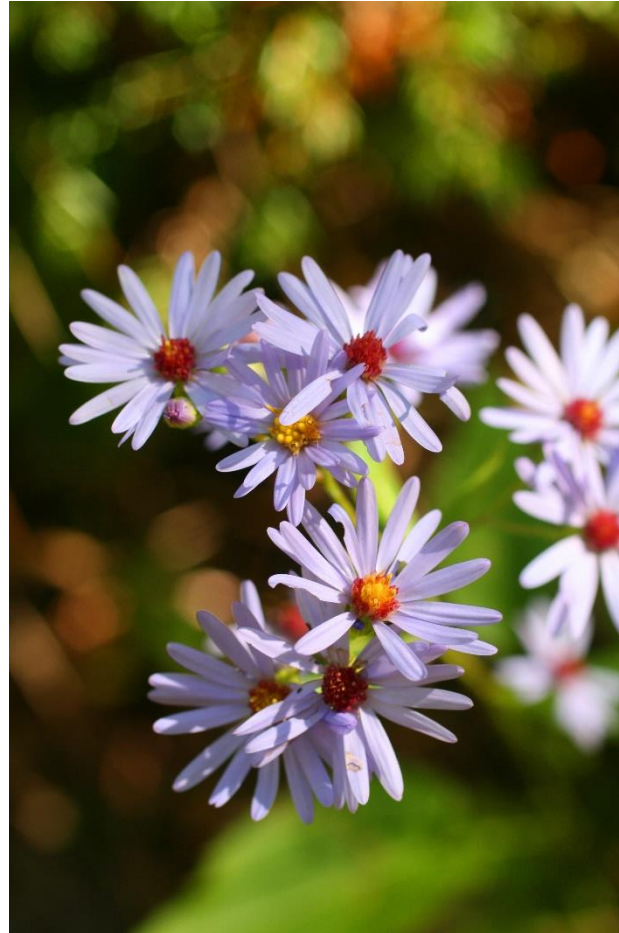
Calico Aster





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Large leaved Aster





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Common Blue Wood Aster





The Bruce Beckons



Dwarf Lake Iris



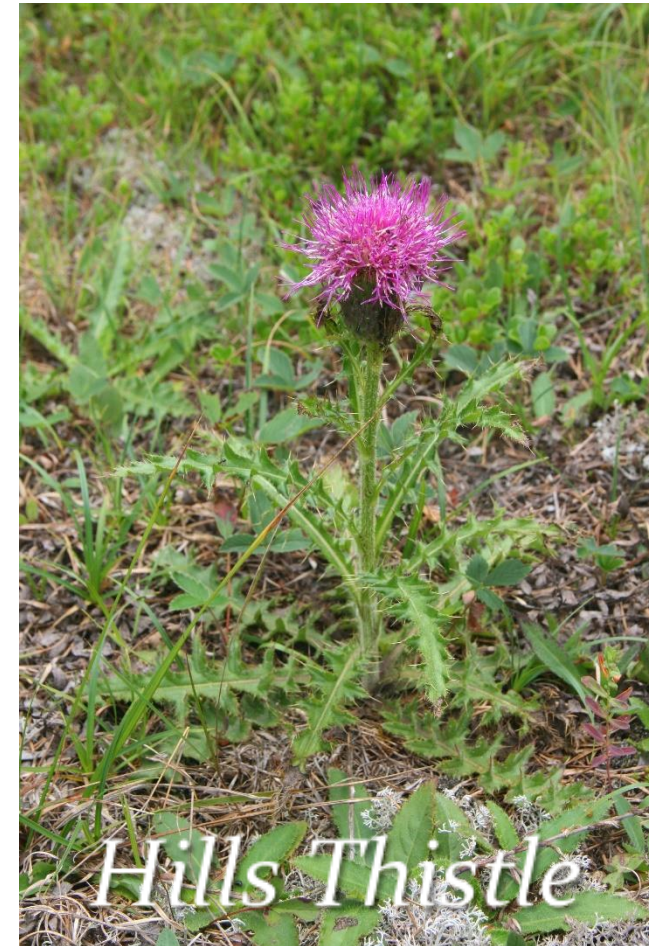
Wood Lily



*Cylindric
Blazingstar*



Painted Brush



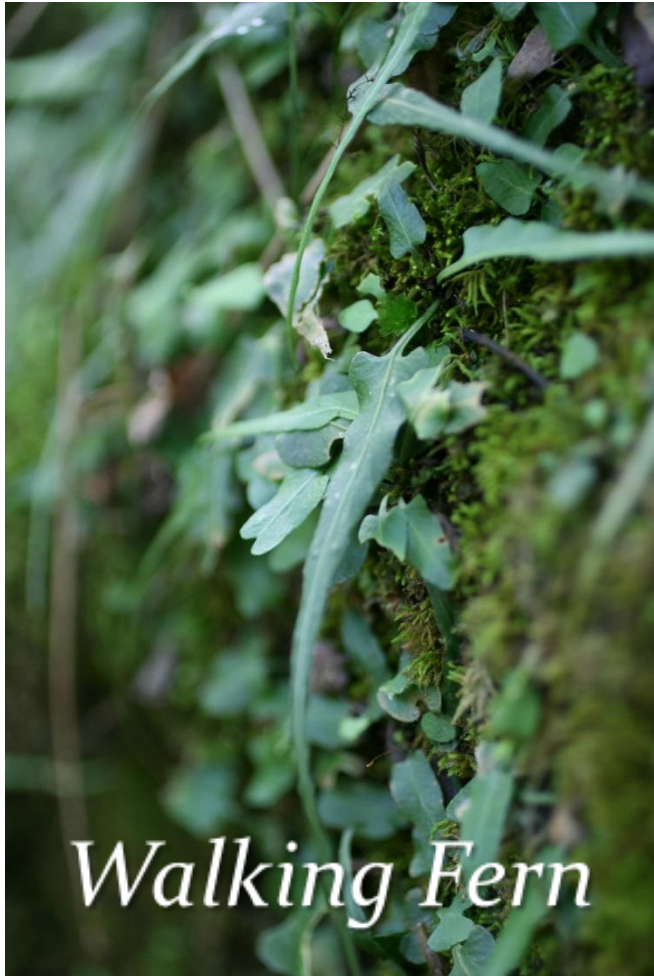
Hills Thistle



Death Camas



Ferns





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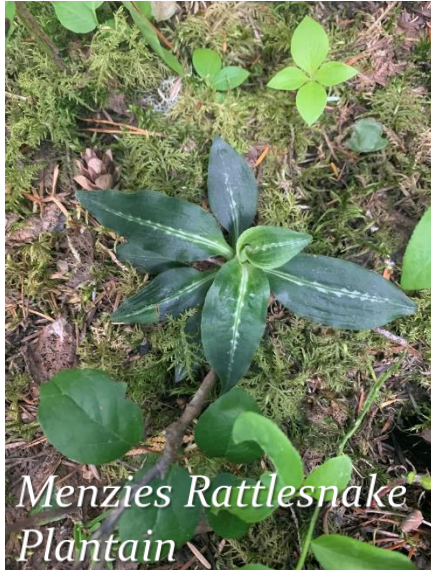
Orchids



Queens Lady Slipper



Helleborine



*Menzies Rattlesnake
Plantain*



Showy Orchis



Northern Green Orchid



Yellow Lady Slipper



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Lookalikes

American Ginseng



Wild Sarsaparilla





Green Dragon



Jack-in-the-Pulpit





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Virginia Spring Beauty



Carolina Spring Beauty





Invasive Species



Garlic Mustard



Giant Hogweed



Dog Strangling Vine



Common Buckthorn

Questions

Q. How does one kill wild chervil?

A. Best practice is to cut it down before flowers go to seed, small patches can be dug up. Large patches may need pesticide treatment.

Q. I need help identifying poison ivy, too.

A. This plant has 3 leaves with the middle leaf on a long stalk. Leaves tend to be shiny and lobed. It can be a shrub, vine or herbaceous plant.





Q. What field guide(s) would you recommend for identification of wildflowers, plants, trees while walking on the trail.

A. Petersons Field guides, Newcombs plant guides, Owen Sound Field Naturalists

Q. I recognize poison ivy, but can't say I would recognize any other hazardous plants. I'd like to know more! Thanks.

A. Wild Parsnip has an umbrel of yellow flowers. Compound leaves are arranged in pairs, with sharply toothed leaflets that are shaped like a mitten. Many other plants have poisonous berries so not recommended to eat wild plants.

Q. What are some of the rare species only/or popularly found along Bruce Trail

A. Jefferson Salamander, Massasauga Rattlesnake (Bruce Peninsula Population), Peregrine Falcon, Old-growth White Cedar

Q. Why is there so much poison ivy along the Bruce Peninsula?

A. It is a VERY adaptable and hearty plant that can tolerate many conditions and is a common ground cover in many parts of Ontario

Q. Is there a good app that helps identify mushrooms specifically?

A. There are several but none that we have used. iNaturalist. Best book for this region – Mushrooms of Northeast North America by George Barron

Q. What are the most vulnerable and endangered species of plants on the Bruce Trail?

A. American Ginseng, Butternut, American Chestnut

Q. Is Dog-strangling Vine on the Bruce Trail? What is being done about it?

A. Yes - mostly south of Orangeville. BTC has a program to eradicate it and is partnering with other organizations on control – NCC, CVC.

Q. Where I can pick-up edible plants and mushrooms?

A. “Leave nothing but thanks and take nothing but photographs”, local native plant nurseries, NEVER eat a mushroom that hasn’t been identified by an expert.

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brucetrail.org

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