



Flora of Voyageurs National Park



NPS Photo

Due to its location and climate, Voyageurs National Park sits in a unique transitional zone where the southern boreal forest blends with the northern hardwoods. Here, you can view the best the plant world has to offer from both ecosystems. Listed below are common plant species visitors can view in the park. While this is not a complete list, it focuses on those plants most abundant and accessible to park visitors. Both common and Latin names are provided for each plant, along with the bloom period, and habitat type.

Bloom period refers to the month(s) flowers are visible on the plant. For example, Mid May – June means peak flowering occurs from mid- May through June. Not all plants have showy flowers; therefore, blooming information is not provided for some species. As you plan your visit, remember the bloom period is an average time frame for flowering. Spring temperatures fluctuate annually, so it is not unusual for flowers to arrive early or late. Below you will find descriptions for the seven major plant habitats in Voyageurs National Park. Plants rarely confine themselves to one area and often grow in two or more habitats.

The plants at Voyageurs National Park are found throughout seven major habitats:

Mesic forests are wooded areas with dry to moderate soil moisture. They have a series of plant layers from grasses to forbs and low shrubs to shrubs and trees.

Wet forests have higher soil moisture, but share plant species from the mesic forest. Often found in low-lying topography or bordering a wetland.

Dry rocky uplands have exposed bedrock covered with a thin layer of poor, dry soil. Small forbs with shallow roots grow best here. A few hardy shrubs and the occasional oak tree can also survive.

Meadows contain grasses and forbs seeking full sun. Dry soil and a lack of trees and shrubs make this ideal habitat for wildflowers like asters and goldenrod.

Wet Meadows are areas characterized by moist soil and a lack of trees and shrubs. These areas often link dry meadows to wetlands. Jewelweed and sedges dominate these sites.

Bog habitats are defined by water present throughout the year, covered with a layer of vegetation. With the exception of tamarack and black spruce, most trees cannot anchor their roots in the saturated peat soil found here.

Shoreline plants preferring a constant supply of water, but not wanting to saturate their roots will grow here. Most shorelines have shrubs and large forbs that can handle fluctuating water levels without washing away. Alder, spirea, and iris can be seen along the shoreline.

Mosses and Ferns

Checklist	Common Name	Latin Name	Bloom Period	Habitat
	1. Bracken Fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	---	Mesic/Wet forest
	2. Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	---	Wet meadow
	3. Common Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	---	Wet forest
	4. Ground Cedar	<i>Lycopodium complanatum</i>	---	Dry rocky upland
	5. Ground Pine	<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i>	---	Wet forest
	6. Interrupted Fern	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	---	Wet forest
	7. Long Beech Fern	<i>Phegopteris connetilis</i>	---	Wet forest
	8. Rock Polypody	<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>	---	Dry rocky upland
	9. Rusty Woodsia	<i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>	---	Dry rocky upland
	10. Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	---	Shoreline
	11. Tree Ground Pine	<i>Lycopodium dendroideum</i>	---	Mesic forest
	12. Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris spinuosa</i>	---	Wet forest

Grasses				
	Upland Grasses			
	1. Blue- Joint	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	- - -	Wet meadow
	2. False Melic	<i>Schizacnne purpurascens</i>	- - -	Wet meadow
	3. Mountain Rice-grass	<i>Oryzopsis asperifolia</i>	May	Mesic forest
	4. Northern Huckgrass	<i>Brachyeiyrtrum erectum</i>	June- Aug	Meadow
	5. Poverty Grass	<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	May- July	Dry rocky upland
	6. Redtop	<i>Agrostis alba</i>	June- Sept	Meadow
	7. Wild Ryegrass	<i>Elymus Canadensis</i>	- - -	Meadow
	8. Wood Reedgrass	<i>Cinna latifolia</i>	July- Oct	Wet forest
	Lowland Grasses			
	1. Bog Cotton	<i>Eriophorum sp.</i>	May- June	Bog
	2. Cutgrass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	June- Oct	Wet meadow

Terrestrial Forbs and Wildflowers				
Checklist	Common Name	Latin Name	Bloom Period	Habitat
	1. Big Leaf Aster	<i>Aster macrophyllus</i>	Mid July- Sept	Mesic forest
	2. Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	May- July	Shoreline
	3. Blue- bead Lily	<i>Clintonia borealis</i>	May- July	Mesic forest
	4. Canada Anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	May- July	Mesic forest
	5. Canada Mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	May- June	Mesic forest
	6. Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Mid May- July	Dry rocky upland
	7. Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera spp.</i>	July- Aug	Meadow
	8. Fireweed	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	July- Sept	Shoreline
	9. Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sp.</i>	July- Sept	Meadow
	10. Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	June- Aug	Dry rocky upland
	11. Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Mid July- Sept	Wet meadow
	12. Pale Corydalis	<i>Corydalis sempervirens</i>	May- Sept	Dry rocky upland
	13. Pearly Everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	July- Sept	Meadow
	14. Pink Lady's- slipper	<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	May- July	Wet forest/Bog
	15. Pitcher Plant	<i>Sarracenia pupurea</i>	May- Aug	Shoreline/Bog
	16. Red Baneberry	<i>Actaea rubra</i>	May- June	Wet Forest
	17. Rose Twisted- stalk	<i>Streptopus roseus</i>	May	Mesic forest
	18. Showy Lady's- slipper	<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>	June- July	Wet forest/Bog
	19. Spotted Joe Pyeweed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	July- Aug	Shoreline
	20. Star Flower	<i>Trientalis borealis</i>	May- Mid June	Mesic forest
	21. Twinflower	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	June - Mid Aug	Mesic forest
	22. Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Mid May- Mid July	Dry rocky upland
	23. Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	July- Aug	Dry rocky upland
	24. Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	June- Aug	Meadow
	25. Yellow Lady's- slipper	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	May- June	Wet forest/Bog

Terrestrial Trees				
Checklist	Common Name	Latin Name	Bloom Period	Habitat
	1. Balsam Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	---	Mesic forest
	2. Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	July- Aug	Mesic forest
	3. Bigtooth Aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Mid Apr- Mid May	Mesic forest
	4. Black Ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	May	Mesic forest
	5. Black Spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>	---	Bog
	6. Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	---	Mesic forest
	7. Jack Pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	---	Mesic forest
	8. Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	May- June	Mesic forest
	9. Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	May- Mid June	Mesic forest
	10. Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Apr- Mid May	Mesic forest
	11. Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	---	Mesic forest
	12. Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>	---	Bog
	13. Trembling Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Apr - Mid May	Mesic forest
	14. White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	---	Mesic forest
	15. White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	---	Mesic forest
Terrestrial Shrubs				
	16. American Hazel	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Apr- May	Mesic forest
	17. Beaked Hazel	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Mid Apr- Mid May	Mesic forest
	18. Bog Birch	<i>Betula pumila</i>	May	Shoreline
	19. Bog Rosemary	<i>Andromeda glaucophylla</i>	Mid May- Mid June	Bog
	20. Bunch Berry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	May- July	Mesic/wet forest
	21. Bush Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Mid June- Sept	Mesic forest
	22. Dwarf Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	---	Dry rocky upland
	23. Fly Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera canadensis</i>	May- Mid June	Mesic forest
	24. Labrador Tea	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	May - June	Bog
	25. Leather Leaf	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	Apr- June	Bog
	26. Lowbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Mid May- Mid June	Mesic forest/Bog
	27. Mountain Alder	<i>Alnus viridis</i>	May- June	Shoreline
	28. Mountain Maple	<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Mid May- Mid July	Mesic forest
	29. Red Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Mid May- June	Wet forest
	30. Red Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Mid May- Mid Aug	Wet forest
	31. Serviceberry	<i>Amerlanchier spp.</i>	May- June	Mesic forest
	32. Small Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i>	June- Aug	Bog
	33. Speckled Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>	Apr- May	Shoreline
	34. Spiraea	<i>Spiraea sp.</i>	July- Aug	Shoreline
	35. Thimble Berry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Mid June- July	Mesic forest
	36. Velvet- leaf Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i>	Mid May- June	Mesic forest/Bog
	37. Wild Red Raspberry	<i>Rubus springsus</i>	June- Mid Aug	Mesic forest
	38. Wild Sarsaparilla	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	Mid May- July	Mesic forest
	39. Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>	May- June	Wet meadow

One third of Voyageurs National Park is water. Looking across a large body of water, there is more life under the water than meets the surface. Listed below are plants classified as aquatic vegetation, meaning they require standing water year- round to survive. Most aquatic plants can be found in all four major lakes and the 26 interior lakes. *Submergent* refers to a plant growing completely underwater. While these plants sometimes tangle around boat props, inconveniencing fishermen, they do provide excellent shelter for fish. *Emergents* are plants anchored into soil below the water, but have stems and leaves emerging above the lake surface. These plants usually grow at water depths of one to four feet and are favorite foods of muskrats and other aquatic mammals.

Aquatic Vegetation				
Checklist	Common Name	Latin Name	Bloom Period	Habitat
	1. American Elodea	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	---	Submergent
	2. Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sp.</i>	July- Aug	Emergent
	3. Bulrush	<i>Scirpus pungens</i>	July- Sept	Emergent
	4. Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sp.</i>	Apr- June	Emergent
	5. Cane Grass	<i>Phragmites sp.</i>	Aug- Sept	Emergent
	6. Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	May- June	Emergent
	7. Coontail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	---	Submergent
	8. Eel Grass	<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	---	Submergent
	9. Flat- stemmed Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	---	Submergent
	10. Floating- leaf Bur Reed	<i>Sparganium fluctuans</i>	---	Submergent
	11. Floating- leaf Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	June- Aug	Emergent
	12. Grass- leaf Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	---	Submergent
	13. Greater Blatterwort	<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i>	---	Submergent
	14. Hemlock Waterparsnip	<i>Sium suave</i>	July- Aug	Emergent
	15. Leafy Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	---	Submergent
	16. Lesser Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>	July- Sept	Floating
	17. Longleaf Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton nodosus</i>	---	Submergent
	18. Naiad	<i>Najas sp.</i>	---	Submergent
	19. Ribbon- leaf Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton sp.</i>	---	Submergent
	20. Richardson Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	---	Submergent
	21. Sago Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	---	Submergent
	22. Slender Spikerush	<i>Elecharis nitida</i>	June	Emergent
	23. Slough Grass	<i>Beckmannia sp.</i>	June- Sept	Emergent
	24. Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effuses</i>	June- Jul	Emergent
	25. Star Duckweed	<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	---	Floating
	26. Sweet Flag	<i>Acorus americanus</i>	June- July	Emergent
	27. Triangular- leafed Bur Reed	<i>Sparganium androcladum</i>	July- Aug	Emergent
	28. Water Horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	---	Emergent
	29. Water Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum sp.</i>	---	Submergent
	30. Water Smartweed	<i>Polygonum sp.</i>	June- Sept	Emergent
	31. Wild Rice	<i>Zizania palustris</i>	Aug- Sept	Emergent
	32. Yellow Water Lily	<i>Nuphar lutea spp.</i>	June- Sept	Emergent