



## 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 spinuiosa</i>	---	Wet forest

