



by the  
Young Naturalists Club  
[www.yncns.ca](http://www.yncns.ca)

## THE YOUNG NATURALISTS GUIDE TO

# LICHENS OF NOVA SCOTIA

### Form, Colour, and Habitats

Lichens are fascinating creatures! Some live on rocks, some on trees, and some are so rare that Nova Scotia is the only place they can be found! Here are some common lichens (and a few rare ones) you might see on your adventures.



**LUNGWORT**

Leafy and green when wet, brown and stiff when dry, grows on maples and other deciduous trees

**BOULDER LICHENS**

Round patches, often on rocks, sometimes with speckled centres. Many species in NS



**SUNBURST LICHENS**

Patchy and bright yellow, many species in NS, some found on rocks, some on trees



**OLD MAN'S BEARDS**

Light green hair-like lichens that hang from tree branches. Some species have a rigid tube running down the middle

**BRITISH SOLDIER**

Tube-like lichens with red tops, grow out of mossy rocks or tree stumps.



**CARIBOU LICHENS**

White to greenish-gray, bushy, with many branches. Squishy when wet, hard and crispy when dry. A former food source for extinct caribou.



### FUN FACT!

While they might look like plants, lichens are actually composite organisms (made up of two or more creatures living together). Most consist of a fungal host and a photosynthetic algae or bacteria



### PINK EARTH LICHEN

Similar to British Soldier, but with pink tops. Grows out of bare soil or sometimes tree roots. A similar lichen called "Fairy Puke" is also pink, but without the stalks



### SMOOTH LUNGWORT

Similar to the more common Lungwort, but without the ridges. Lighter green in colour when wet, brownish when dry. Often with orange-ish speckles (apothecia)



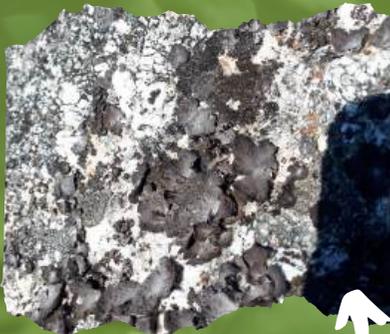
### CITY RIM LICHEN

This green-ish crusty looking lichen is unusually tolerant of pollution and can be found right within the city core. It was introduced from Europe where it is adapted to acid rain conditions



### DUST LICHENS

Many species in NS, some white, green-ish, or yellow. Resemble dust. Usually on trees in rounded patches.



### ROCK TRIPES

Many species in NS. Grow on bare rock, green-brown or purplish-brown and squishy when wet, black or brown and crispy when dry.

### FUN FACT!

Many lichens are sensitive to air pollution, making them great indicators of air quality around cities and signs of disturbance in forests

### BOTTLEBUSH SHEILD

Common on trees throughout NS, white or very light green with dark undersides. Many branches when young, growing thicker with age.



### SPECKLE-BELLY

Green-brown or brown with yellow edges. A few species in NS. Grows on trees in coastal areas.



### HOODED TUBE LICHEN

Thin, puffy, white to light-green tubes with some branching. Grows on trees, often with old man's beard.



### FUN FACT!

Lichens come in so many different forms, scientists think there could be over 3,600 species in North America alone!



**HOODED ROSETTE LICHEN**

This gray-green lichen forms rounded hollow bulbs at its edges. Look for it on tree bark



**BLUE JELLYSKIN**

Blue-grey with thin and wide lobes that spread over the tree bark, especially close to the ground, even on logs or mossy rocks



**TREE JELLY**

Dark green to black lichen that looks translucent when wet. Grows in cool shaded old forests, usually on deciduous trees but sometimes on conifers

**RARE & AT-RISK LICHENS**

Some lichens are so rare, they're found only in Nova Scotia! Some are only found in a few places, and some are so uncommon they're at risk of extinction. Here are some rare lichens to watch out for:



**WRINKLED SHINGLE LICHEN**

Threatened in Nova Scotia and Canada, this bumpy gray lichen likes to grow in mature deciduous forests in wet areas, especially on red maple trees



**EASTERN WATERFAN**

This rare lichen grows at or under the water surface in lakes and streams! Threatened throughout its range along the Eastern seaboard, a quarter of the entire species lives in Atlantic Canada!



**BLACK FOAM LICHEN**

This puffy lichen looks like the more common hooded tube lichen, but with more black at the edges and growing to a larger sized rosette. It is Threatened in Nova Scotia and grows only in old deciduous forests



**BLUE FELT LICHEN**

This felty blue-gray creature is our provincial lichen! It is listed as Vulnerable. Although it is found in other Atlantic provinces and in Maine, it is only common in Nova Scotia

**FUN FACT!**

Lichens can grow on just about anything and are often among the first organisms to colonize bare rock or new habitat opened up by a disturbance! There are even lichens that grow on sand

**YOU CAN REPORT YOUR LICHEN SIGHTINGS TO INATURALIST OR TO LICHENSNS.COM**

**SHOW US YOUR LICHENS!**

Draw the lichens you find around your local "naturehood"!

They could be hiding in the forest, on a rock, or right outside your window! Check the side of your house, the sidewalk, or playground!

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Lichen ID: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lichen Word Search

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- AIRPOLLUTION
- SPRUCE
- CYANOBACTERIA
- OLDGROWTH
- STREAM
- MAPLE
- FIR
- SWAMP
- CLEARCUT
- SYMBIOSIS
- CONIFEROUS
- ORGANISM
- FUNGUS
- FOREST
- JELLYSKIN
- WETLAND
- ACIDRAIN
- ALGAE
- LAKE
- BIRCH
- lichen

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1954373/>