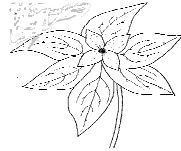


PlantWatch New Brunswick – Spring 2005

Dear New Brunswick PlantWatchers,

now is the time of year when we all start to get excited about the arrival of Spring; Gardeners start off their seedlings indoors, outdoor enthusiasts put their snow shoes into storage and unpack their hiking boots, and PlantWatchers prepare themselves for another season of plant watching ☺



Here at PlantWatch New Brunswick we are hoping that more people than ever will be PlantWatching in 2005 and so we are offering you 10 hints and tips to help you become the greatest PlantWatchers ever!

1. Start small and build up – in your first year of PlantWatching chose only one or two plants to observe. That way you wont spread yourself too thinly and you will be confident that your observations are accurate.
2. Observe dandelions – for some reason last year everyone else thought that someone else was observing dandelions and the result was that we received ZERO observations for one of the most common plants in the province!
3. Ask for help – if you are not sure if you are observing a coltsfoot or a dandelion, or if your red maple blossoms are male or female check out our website (see end) or you can always call us or email us a photo or a description of the plant. We are here to help you!
4. Start early – Coltsfoot may have had an average first blooming date of early May last year, but that doesn't mean that it wont bloom earlier where you are. Get out and about as soon as the snows have melted.
5. Choose accessible plants – if you have dandelions in your lawn or a hedge made of lilac then those are the plants you should be watching. However, make sure that they are ten metres or more (approx 10 strides for the average man) from the nearest building or your dates will be earlier than they should be.
6. Get out and about – walk the dog, go jogging or take a daily stroll, and whilst you are doing it keep your eyes open for our PlantWatch species. It will stimulate both your body and mind!
7. Tag your chosen tree – Tie a piece of coloured wool to a branch, that way you will always be observing the same tree all season and every year.
8. Don't get overwhelmed! – if you have a large expanse of plants such as dandelions, wild strawberry or bunchberry select a one meter square patch and just observe the plants in that area. Mark the corners of your patch with sticks to help you relocate it.
9. Don't Panic! – If you aren't sure if your chosen plant bloomed today or yesterday it's not the end of the world. Small errors of a day or so are always accounted for. However, if you think your results may be 2 or more days out, then its is better to leave it and try again next year.... or choose another later blooming plant and really focus on that one.
10. Don't be shy – just because you don't wear a white coat to work doesn't mean that you can't be a scientist. Every observation you send in contributes to a body of scientific data that wouldn't be there if people like you didn't help us. We can all be scientists if we want to be.

Send us your photos

If you have taken a great photo of one of the PlantWatch species please send it to us. We may use it on the website or include it in the next newsletter and we will of course credit it to you.

Send us your stories

If you have an interesting story to tell that you think we or other PlantWatchers might be interested in, please send it to us! Did you find it particularly cold this winter? Did your tulips come up earlier than usual? We would love to include more of your suggestions, observations and stories in our newsletters.

Expanding PlantWatch NB

We are considering adding the following to our list of species observed in New Brunswick.

English Name (and alternative names)	French Name	Scientific name
Bearberry (kinnikinnick)	Raisin d'ours	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Choke Cherry	Cerisier à grappes	<i>Prunus Virginiana</i>
Saskatoon (serviceberry, june-berry, Shadbush)	amélanchier	<i>Amelanchier</i>
Star-flowered Solomon's Seal (Solomon plume, wild spikenard)	Smilacine étoilée	<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>
Twinflower	Linnée boréale	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>

What do you think? Do you have any of these species growing in your area? We are particularly interested to hear from anyone who has any bearberry growing near where they, especially if they have any nice photos of it in bloom.

Sending you results

Your results can either be added online at

<http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/observations/intro.html?WatchProgram=PlantWatch>

or sent to me by email at nbwilderness@yahoo.ca

or by post to [PlantWatch NB, 469, Route 530, Grande-Digue, NB, E4R5E1](#)

If you do decide to submit your results online there is no need to also send them to me because I am able to access your results from the online database. However, if you do have any additional comments, notes etc that you were unable to add online and that you think we might be interested in then please also send them to me by email or post at the above address.

Unsubscribe

If you are moving away or simply no longer want to receive news from PlantWatch NB just send us an email with "Unsubscribe" as your message and we will remove you from our mailing list.

PlantWatch Online

Don't forget to check out our own New Brunswick PlantWatch website for detailed plant descriptions and photos at

<http://ca.geocities.com/nbwilderness/index.htm>

and the national PlantWatch website at

<http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/plantwatch/>

Parting note

I wish you all a happy, green and prosperous New Year, full of larch cones, Rhodora flowers and red maple blossoms and wherever you are and whatever you are doing, remember to keep PlantWatching☺

Sincerely,

Rowena Hopkins, Co-ordinator PlantWatch NB