






# Long's Braya

*Braya longii*

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>STATUS</b>  | Not Listed    | Endangered    |
| Endangered  | Not Listed  | Not Listed  |



© PETER THOMAS



Close-up of flowers



Seed pods (siliques)

© JOHN WARDLICK  
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## Species Description

Long's Braya is a small (1-10 cm tall) perennial member of the mustard family. Lance-shaped leaves are very small (1-4 cm long, 1-3 mm wide), somewhat fleshy, and spatula-shaped with pointed ends. Clusters of white (rarely pinkish) four-petaled flowers are held on a green to purplish, downy stalk. Petals are typically 3.3-4.8 mm long and 1.4-2.5 mm wide, and typically have an outward-curving, flattened form. Seed pods (siliques) have few or no hairs, and contain 10-16 tightly enclosed seeds.

Endemic to the northwestern coast of Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula; only about 5500 flowering plants along 13 km of coast.



## Habitat

Long's Braya requires open, sparsely-vegetated limestone barrens habitat where frost-shattered gravel is present. This can be natural, undisturbed or degraded limestone barrens. Within undisturbed barren habitat, plants are usually found in association with frost-circles, growing between muddier central sections and more vegetated outside edges. Sites are typically near the coast in wind-swept, exposed areas with low temperatures, limited snow accumulation and moderate precipitation.



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Open, sparsely-vegetated limestone barrens



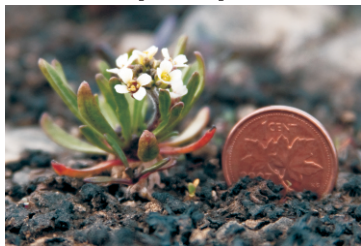
© NATHALIE DIAN-CHEAR

Circular frost-shattering of limestone gravel

This is plant is easily missed; in gravelly limestone barrens, look for tiny clumps of leaves (< 10 cm tall) and four-petaled flowers or pea-like pods.

## Interesting Points

- The overall population may have declined by about 23% in recent years.
- When a plant is pushed out of the soil by frost heaving, the root actually shortens to pull the plant back in!



A very small Long's Braya!



A naturalist carefully examines rare plants

## Similar Species

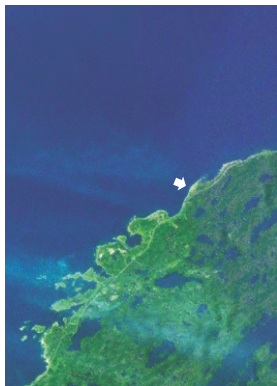
See page 110 for details on several other similar species.

### Fernald's Braya:

Very similar. Petals are typically pinkish, 2.4-3.8 mm long and 1-1.3 mm wide, and tend to grow upwards (see photo); seed pods are usually quite hairy (see photo). See page 109 for more details.



© JOHN MAUNDER (both)



Satellite image of limestone barrens (gray)

## Threats to Survival

- Limestone extraction for gravel for road construction and maintenance can eliminate plants, soil, and even bedrock, essentially destroying suitable habitat.
- Use of off-highway vehicles crushes plants and rutting destroys suitable habitat.
- A non-native moth and several pathogens threaten some occurrences of Long's Braya.
- Climate change may alter Braya habitat.



Exotic moth species damage



Habitat damage from ATV use

## How You Can Help

Support local stewardship activities and learn to recognize limestone barrens habitat. Encourage others to tread lightly on this sensitive habitat by avoiding the use of off-highway vehicles or trucks and reporting illegal quarrying or dumping to the Newfoundland and Labrador's Wildlife Division.

## Contacts, Information & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** NL Wildlife Division (709) 637-2026

**Info:** [www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca), [www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/endangeredspecies/](http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/endangeredspecies/)

**Stewardship:** [www.limestonebarrens.ca](http://www.limestonebarrens.ca)