

Eastern Mountain Avens

Geum peckii

STATUS	Not Listed 	Not Listed 
Endangered 	Endangered 	Not Listed 



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Found on Brier Island and in the East Ferry area of Digby Neck - the only locations in Canada! It has an estimated population of 6000 plants.

Habitat

Found in wetlands such as bogs and fens. It is occasionally found in drier areas, such as old pastures and roadsides where there is a spot of constant moisture. Typically found growing with sphagnum moss, deer grass, pitcher plants, shrubby cinquefoil, common juniper or labrador tea.



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Species Description

Eastern Mountain Avens is a perennial plant that has one to five yellow flowers (1-3 cm wide) near the top of a reddish flowering stalk that is 20-50 cm tall. It has a large, rounded or lobed terminal leaf with two or more smaller leaflets along its stalk. It reproduces mainly by underground stems (rhizomes) and occurs in clumps of several plants.

Eastern Mountain Avens can be identified by its yellow flowers and reddish stems. After the petals fall off, the distinctive flower center remains. Flowers can be observed from June-October.

Interesting Points

- This globally rare plant is found only in one other place in the world: the high altitudes of the Presidential Mountain Range of New Hampshire!
- Unlike NS, where this species is found in bogs, the New Hampshire plants occur along rushing rivers, in cascading waterfalls and in wet alpine meadows above the tree line.



Leaflets along the stem



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Similar Species

Purple Avens:

Flowers purple and light yellow. Leaves in groups of three.



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Tall Buttercup:

Similar yellow flowers but leaves deeply lobed, instead of rounded.

Bakeapple:

Leaves similar in appearance but without leaflets along the stem. Flowers white.

Threats to Survival

- Historical wetland drainage on Brier Island has altered the habitat and allowed gulls to nest in wetlands containing this species.
- Gull excrement can kill native bog plants and add nutrients that encourage the invasion of non-native weeds and shrubs that out-compete Eastern Mountain Avens.
- Climate change and rising ocean levels may alter cool, foggy wetland habitat on Brier Island.
- Natural wetland succession can result in encroaching trees/shrubs.



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Habitat destruction from nesting gulls

How You Can Help

Learn to recognize this species and study it in school or as a research project. Volunteer with Nature Conservancy of Canada and help monitor this species. Avoid trampling and driving OHVs in boggy habitats. Never pick or transplant this species or any other rare plant.



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Students helping with monitoring

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: AC CDC (506) 364-2658, or NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings

Stewardship: MTRI: info@merseytobeatic.ca