

Blue Felt Lichen

(*Degelia plumbea*)

- Blue Felt Lichen is a large, blue-grey, leafy lichen.
- Fruit bodies are often present and show as red-brown structures that darken with age.
- It often has ridges and curves that result in a scallop shape.
- Blue Felt Lichen is a cyanolichen, meaning it is actually a fungus and cyanobacteria partnership.



Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Blue Felt Lichen is found on broad-leaved trees in moist habitats; preferring cool, humid woodlands. In insular Newfoundland, this species grows mainly on Yellow Birch but has been found on White Spruce, mossy boulders, and non-native trees. Blue Felt Lichen is only found in the Atlantic region within Canada.

Population Trends

Over 1000 thalli have been counted in four areas of insular Newfoundland (the Bay D'Espoir area, the central Avalon Peninsula, southwest Newfoundland, and Terra Nova National Park) and other individuals likely exist. However, the majority of known individuals exist on non-native trees.

Limiting Factors and Threats

Blue Felt Lichen require specific habitats, including mature broad-leaved trees and humid climates. In addition, the fungus and cyanobacterium partner need to come together. Air pollution, tree harvesting, moose browsing, and other development impacting habitat availability likely negatively impact this species.

Special Significance

Blue Felt Lichen is the only lichen of this type found in North America.

You can help protect the Blue Felt Lichen:

- If you own forested land, consider how you might manage it to conserve rare species.
- Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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