

Barrens Willow

(*Salix jejuna*)

- The Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland is the only place in the world where the Barrens willow grows.
- It is a dwarf, prostrate shrub, whose trailing branches cause it to look like a small mat. It has small, rounded, hairless leaves with a waxy upper surface.
- Male and female reproductive structures are found on separate plants and are called catkins.
- Catkins range from orange to dark red.



Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Barrens willow is endemic to the northwest coast of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland and is restricted to the unique limestone barrens ecosystem. It is found from the Watts Point Ecological Reserve to Cape Norman.

Population Trends

In 2000, botanists reported that there were less than 50 known individuals of barrens willow. Surveys conducted since then indicate that the population totals several thousand individuals. Work is ongoing to determine the genetic structure of barrens willow populations and to improve our understanding of how it differs from other willow species.

Limiting Factors and Threats

Historically, populations have been disturbed by human activity associated with quarrying and road development. Currently, populations are limited by off-road vehicle activity and a finite amount of available suitable habitat.

Special Significance

Barrens willow is one of a unique set of rare species adapted to the harsh conditions of the limestone barrens.

You can help protect the barrens willow:

- Support stewardship activities in your area.
- Stop habitat destruction, keep all-terrain vehicles and trucks on approved trails.

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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