

The Wildflower Hunt

Fen, bog, dune and forest-floor plants. Most of these are smaller than your hand, so get down to them.

This sheet is a slice: wildflowers & plants has 60 in the full list. The rest are on the website and in the field checklist.

Explorer: _____

How it works

1. Take a photograph of each thing on the list. Any camera counts - a phone is fine.
2. Tick the box when you have the picture, and write down where you were.
3. You do not have to get them in order, and you do not have to get them all.
4. Stay on roads, trails and public beaches. Ask before you cross anyone's land.
5. Look, don't touch: leave the plants growing and the bark on the trees.
6. If an animal changes what it is doing because of you, you are too close. Back away.

How hard is it? ★☆☆☆☆ seen all the time ★★★★★ very rarely seen

Before you go

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A camera, or a phone | ☐ Water, and a snack |
| ☐ Sunscreen and a hat | ☐ Shoes you can get wet |
| ☐ A pencil for this book | ☐ Bug spray in summer |

The most-evidenced twenty-four.



Reed canary grass

A tall grass that takes over wet ground. This one is invasive - photographing it is recording a problem.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Sphagnum

Spongy moss that builds the bogs. Squeeze it and water runs out.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Wild sarsaparilla

Three groups of leaves on one stem, held like an umbrella over the forest floor.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Shrubby cinquefoil

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Star-flower

A tiny white star on the forest floor in spring.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Sand cherry

A low shrub on the dunes with small dark cherries.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Canada mayflower

A carpet of small leaves with a spike of white flowers.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Royal fern

A tall fern that grows in wet ground, in big fountain shapes.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Sand reed grass

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Wormwood

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Twig-rush

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Bearberry

A low mat with tiny leathery leaves, growing right on the sand.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Dwarf raspberry

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Sensitive fern

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Twinflower

Two tiny pink bells hanging from one thin stalk.
Get down low.

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Baltic rush

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Creeping juniper

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Goldthread

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Kalm's St. John's-wort

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Common milkweed

Fat pods and pink flowers that smell sweet.
Monarch caterpillars eat only this.

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



False asphodel

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Wire-grass sedge

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Beach grass

★★★★☆☆

WHERE _____

Bingo

Sixteen of these you can reasonably expect to find. Four in a row – across, down or corner to corner – and shout BINGO.

 Reed canary grass	 Sphagnum	 Wild sarsaparilla	 Shrubby cinquefoil
 Star-flower	 Sand cherry	 Canada mayflower	 Royal fern
 Sand reed grass	 Wormwood	 Twig-rush	 Bearberry
 Dwarf raspberry	 Sensitive fern	 Twinflower	 Baltic rush

Look, but don't go near

These are on the island, and they are not on your list. Some are protected by law, some are so rare that walking near them is the danger, and some nest in big noisy colonies that abandon their eggs if people come close. You can still photograph them - from far away, with a long lens, from a boat or a road. A photograph is never worth a nest.

Pitcher's thistle *Cirsium pitcheri*

A prickly silver-blue plant that grows nowhere in the world except Great Lakes dunes. Photograph it where it stands - the dune around it is the fragile part.

Draw the best thing you found

Made from the Beaver Island Archive. Nothing here was made up: the animals come from public observation records, the trees and plants from forest surveys, 1800s land-survey field notes and natural-features reports, the ground from geological mapping, and the places from the archive’s own encyclopedia. The complete list, and the reasons behind each entry, is at beaverislandarchive.org/photo-hunt/.