

Field Guide to Nunavut's Flora, Fauna, and Funga



DISCLAIMER

This field guide is intended for educational and recreational purposes only. While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, species identification should always be verified through multiple sources, especially for:

- Edible or medicinal plants
- Mushrooms (many species are toxic)
- Wildlife encounters (maintain safe distances)

Safety Notice:

- Never consume any wild species without expert verification
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance
- Follow local regulations regarding protected species

FLORA



Entireleaf Mountain-Avens

Dryas integrifolia

A prostrate dwarf shrub native to Arctic regions, it thrives in cold, wet habitats and plays a key role in revegetation efforts.



Arctic Willow

Salix arctica

A low-growing shrub adapted to Arctic tundra, featuring silky leaves and distinct male and female catkins. Found in circumpolar regions.



Purple Saxifrage

Saxifraga oppositifolia

A low-growing, mat-forming plant, found in Arctic and alpine habitats, featuring purple flowers and small, scalelike leaves.



Dwarf Fireweed

Chamaenerion latifolium

A perennial herb with clumping leaves, featuring nodding pink or white flowers. Found in northern regions, it thrives in varied elevations.



Prickly Saxifrage

Saxifraga tricuspidata

A perennial herb with clumping leaves, featuring nodding pink or white flowers. Found in northern regions, it thrives in varied elevations.



Moss Campion

Silene acaulis

A low, evergreen perennial found in arctic and alpine regions, featuring pink star-shaped flowers and dense, moss-like cushions.

FAUNA



Polar Bear

Ursus maritimus

A large Arctic bear, adapted for marine life, known for its thick fur, sharp teeth, and reliance on sea ice for hunting seals. Vulnerable due to climate change.



Lapland Longspur

Calcarius lapponicus

A robust passerine with distinct plumage, this migratory bird breeds in Arctic regions and winters in cultivated lands, feeding on seeds and insects.



Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

A large, pale gull found in Arctic regions, known for its thick yellow bill and migratory habits, breeding on coasts and cliffs.



Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

A medium-sized passerine, this Arctic specialist has distinct plumage differences between sexes and seasons, thriving in tundra habitats.



Caribou

Rangifer tarandus

A deer species native to Arctic and subarctic regions, known for its unique adaptations, migratory behavior, and cultural significance.



Arctic Hare

Lepus arcticus

A large hare adapted to Arctic tundra, it features short ears, a thick fur coat, and can run up to 60 km/h. Found in northern regions.

FUNGA



Elegant Sunburst Lichen

Rusavskia elegans

Bright orange or red lichen found on rocks, often near animal droppings; thrives in extreme environments and used in lichenometry.



Crinkled Snow Lichen

Flavocetraria nivalis

Bright orange or red lichen found on rocks, often near animal droppings; thrives in extreme environments and used in lichenometry.



Yellow Lichen

Vulpicida juniperinus

Bright orange or red lichen found on rocks, often near animal droppings; thrives in extreme environments and used in lichenometry.



Whiteworm Lichen

Thamnolia vermicularis

Bright orange or red lichen found on rocks, often near animal droppings; thrives in extreme environments and used in lichenometry.



Arctic Butterfingers Lichen

Dactylina arctica

A lichen found in Canada's boreal forests, known for its distinct finger-like structures and vibrant appearance.



Concentric Ring Lichen

Arctoparmelia centrifuga

A lichen found in Canada's boreal forests, known for its distinct finger-like structures and vibrant appearance.