

Any attempt to list and describe all of the roadside plants in P.E.I. would result in an article long enough to fill at least two issues of the Island Naturalist. This article then will be limited to a dozen or so of the more common and interesting plants of the roadside. Roadside plants will vary greatly with different areas and, of course, paved roads versus clay roads

Two of the very common roadside plants are: rabbit's foot clover (Trifolium arvense) and hop clover (three species). The rabbit's foot clover is very well named. The heads are rather small but the calyx teeth are long and silky. They are also a grayish colour and certainly give the impression of a rabbit's foot. It forms quite dense masses in many roadside areas.

The most common hop clover is the low hop clover (T. procumbens). Most people will be familiar with this because it is very common and the yellow colour on a low growing plant make it easily recognized.

Wild barley (Hordeum jubatum) is becoming increasingly common along our roadsides. It is easily recognized because the heads resemble those of the common barley except that the beards are smaller but are very prickly. It will be well if this one sticks to the roadsides because, if cattle eat it, the awns can cause considerable discomfort in the mouth and throat.

The three so far described are not very spectacular so perhaps it would be well to shift to a couple that are quite attractive in appearance. First of all, wild carrot (Daucus carota), often called Queen Anne's Lace because of the pattern formed by the snow white blossoms. It would be nearly impossible to miss this one because it is common from North Point to East Point. Unfortunately, it is creeping more and more into cultivated land and it is very difficult to control.

Now we come to chicory (Cichorium intybus) with its bright blue flowers found along the stem. For some reason these flowers have given rise to the name Blue Sailors. It is fairly common in the province but there is probably more in Mount Stewart than in most areas. It is worth remembering that the root of this plant, well dried and finely ground, is a substitute for coffee. In fact, some brands of coffee contain chicory.

Almost everyone is familiar with goldenrod (Solidago species) but how many realize that there are more than a dozen different species in P.E.I. Two of these are probably more common than the others. Canada goldenrod (S. canadensis) is often called broad leaved goldenrod and is very common along roadsides, especially in rich land. The next one (S. graminifolia) is usually called narrow leaved goldenrod. It is more likely in light sandy areas and has a flat topped inflorescence, this along with the narrow leaves make it easily recognizable.

Aster is another of our plants with at least a dozen species, some of them quite attractive in appearance. Probably the most common one is the New York aster (Aster novi-belgii). This is the one we most commonly see along the roadsides. It is quite variable in the colour of the bloom but mostly it is seen as pale blue to violet. The second most common aster is probably A. umbellatus, tall white aster. It is common along roadsides and wet ground. It is easily recognized by its very tall stems and white flowers.

A newcomer to some of our roadsides is bird's foot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus). This is a forage plant and, I believe, has been used by the Highways people as a control for erosion. It is quite an attractive plant but does not seem to be increasing too well.

No article on roadside plants would be complete without reference to lupins (Lupinus perennia). It is difficult to say when the blue lupin first

