



Male catkins of *Populus tremuloides* (native aspen), Edmonton, 2011-04-28. Photo: P. Cotterill.

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Editorial

Spring is rapidly approaching, and the Edmonton Native Plant Society's calendar has been filling up with invitations to community events that anticipate the coming season. Our growers have already done some sowing and are tending forests of little seedlings bunched together under grow-lights. See our report on Board News for more information on what ENPS is up to. Also remember to consult our website for information on growing techniques as well as upcoming events.

By mid-April aspens will be in flower, along with beaked hazelnut, in our ravines and parks, and if you look carefully you will see masses of little yellow flowers on Canada buffaloberry. The willows follow all through May, depending on the species. As with aspen and buffaloberry, be sure to distinguish the males from the females on separate plants. It isn't only the beloved prairie crocus that symbolises spring!

Events

The annual City Nature Challenge, with cities around the world collaborating (through iNaturalist) to document urban biodiversity, will take place April 25 – April 28, 2025. Four of Alberta's major urban areas are involved this year and other municipalities are encouraged to take part! This is a free event and you can participate anywhere within your project boundaries.

Time & Location:

Friday, April 25 to
Monday, April 28, 2025
Metro Edmonton, AB

The iNaturalist project for the Metro Edmonton City Nature Challenge is: *City Nature Challenge 2025: metro Edmonton area*

For a tutorial on how to use the iNaturalist cellphone app, please go to:

[Read more...](#)

<https://www.enps.ca/post/what-is-inaturalist-and-how-to-use-it>

Earth Day Festival

ENPS will have an information table, and will be selling seeds/books/brochures, at this event sponsored by SCAN! (Seniors for Climate Action Now!) Edmonton. Join us for conversations, presentations, and family friendly activities for all ages.

[Read more...](#)

Time & Location:

Saturday, April 26, 2025

1:00 p.m. - 4:30

pm

Alberta Avenue Community League

9210 118 Ave NW

Edmonton, AB



Also at this event, Touch Grass Club will be offering drop-in lessons on planting native plants (at their booth) beginning at 2:00 p.m., while supplies last.



Curious about how to include native plants for your garden?

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan is offering a webinar with speaker Gail Fennell, formerly a volunteer with the Edmonton Native Plant Society.

[Read more...](#)

Time & Location:

Tuesday, April 29, 2025
12:00 p.m.

This webinar will talk about:

- Planning a native plant garden
- Sourcing plugs and seeds
- Stratifying
- How to plant native seeds
- How to maintain a garden

Online on Zoom

News

Everything Gardening Exchange Event

ENPS was invited to have an information table at this gardening event, held at the Strathcona County Library in Sherwood Park on March 1, 2025.

We provided detailed guidance on growing native plants from seed, distributed seeds of seven different species and shared informational handouts.

[Read more...](#)



First-time ENPS volunteers (behind the table) Rebecca Pinto (L) and Katherina Woods (R). Photo: M. Parseyan.

ENPS Board Update

The annual general meeting of the society, held on February 20th, 2025, drew considerable interest, with 31 people attending, either in person or by Zoom.

The president gave an annual report, highlighting the events and accomplishments of ENPS since October, 2023. The treasurer presented an audited financial statement for the year which showed that the Society is in good shape financially.

All indications are that the society is thriving, with increased membership, new volunteers and a sound financial footing.

Elections held at the next regular board meeting, on March 6, saw changes made to the board executive.

[Read more...](#)

Ritchie Presents: Edmonton Native Plant Society

Ritchie Community League invited ENPS to give a presentation for interested gardeners on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

ENPS board member Patrick Kyle spoke to an audience of over 50 individuals, sharing his extensive knowledge of growing native plants, and showcasing some of his beautiful photos of native plants and pollinators.

[Read more...](#)



Patrick Kyle relating his knowledge of native plants to a large audience. Photo: M. Parseyan.

Be Bee-Savvy?

Are you into taking photos of insects on native plants? ENPS would be interested in having copies of your best shots, especially if they are identified. Please send them to info@enps.ca

A good tool for identifying bees is the BeeMachine software, available on the website beemachine.ai or as an app for mobile devices.

[Read more...](#)



Bombus perplexus bees on *Gaillardia aristata*. Photo: P. Cotterill.

Articles

Plant Profile: Buttercups, Part 3

By Patsy Cotterill

In two previous articles, we described the buttercup species found in the Edmonton area in moist, shady terrestrial habitats, as well as those found in wetter conditions.

In this final instalment, we are going to consider four species of buttercup that occur within the Central Parkland ecoregion, all of which are terrestrial and are quite clearly members of the *Ranunculus* genus.

[Read more...](#)



Prairie buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboideus*) in flower at Nisku Prairie, 2011-05-18. Photo: P. Cotterill.

Plant Talk: Know Your Christmas Trees/Conifers, Part 2

By Patsy Cotterill



As described in Part 1 of this article, pines (genus *Pinus*) can be recognized because their leaves are in clusters (bundles) of two, three or five needles, which are held together, at least initially, by a papery sheath at the base, as opposed to having leaves attached singly to the twigs as in most of our other conifer species.

This article will look at the various species of this genus which are found in Alberta, including those that are native as well as those commonly planted in the horticultural/silvacultural industries.

[Read more...](#)

Mature jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) on Devon Sand Dune lands southwest of Edmonton, 2011-11-10. Photo: P. Cotterill.

Key to the Native Conifers of Alberta

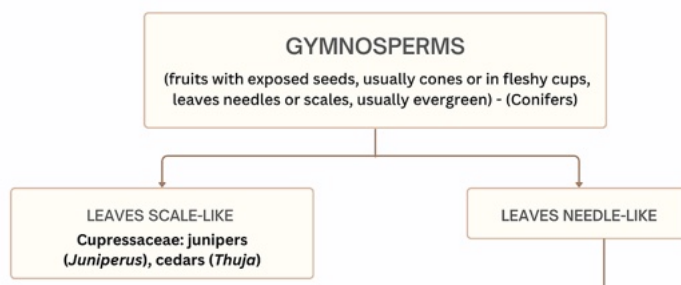
By Patsy Cotterill

Want help distinguishing between the different species of conifer that you encounter? You can find the complete key on the ENPS website at:

<https://www.enps.ca/post/key-to-the-native-conifers-of-alberta>

Key to Alberta conifers

According to Linda Kershaw & Lorna Allen, 2020. *Vascular Flora of Alberta: An illustrated Guide*. Self-published. Kindle Direct Publishing.



Conifers of the Edmonton Area: A Word Puzzle

By Patsy Cotterill

K R M N F X Z F T H X I L I R
C H I T J C L A C Q L G O A A
O A O F M A M Z K A B P D L N
L H B U M A C T J X X E G Q J
M X Q S R A F K X S C U E M N
E R U A M G S S P D A W P H H
H I C R R D I L E I J S O G W
N K E P G T B R A M N U L H V
R G V O X U N V D B V E E I Q
E O Z S B R K X W K A B P C U
T L T O E Z T X N T S H I U Y
S E E T Z D G D V D F I N V K
E J S H L E N A B C G U E F L
W E C O M M O N J U N I P E R
W E C U R P S K C A L B F P D

Here's a puzzle to test your wordsearch skills ...

For the list of words to be found, go to:

<https://www.enps.ca/post/conifers-of-the-edmonton-area-a-word-puzzle>

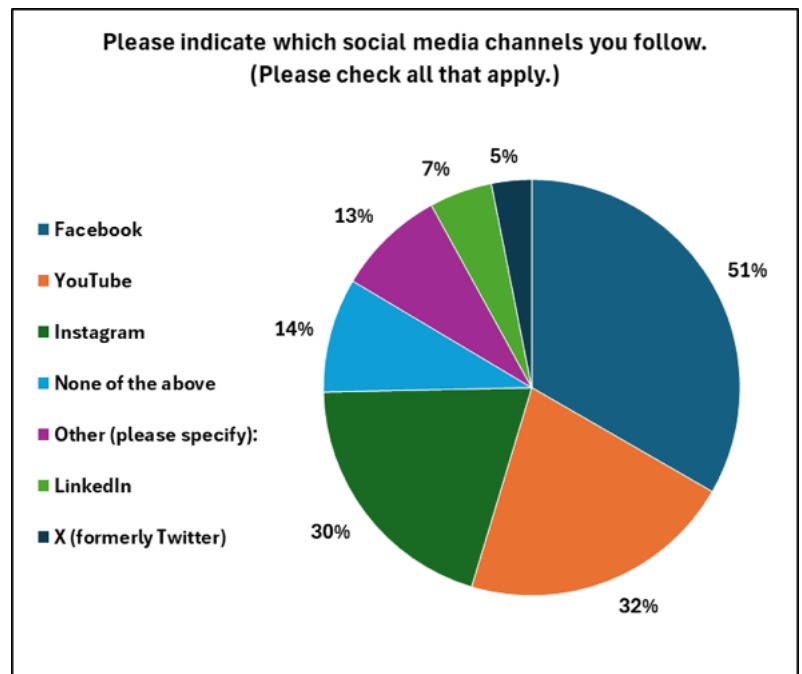
ENPS Member and Volunteer Survey Summary

By Aaron Vansevenandt

The Edmonton Native Plant Society conducted a member and volunteer survey from December 12, 2024, to January 25, 2025.

We received over 140 submissions, and insights gleaned from the survey will help shape future initiatives and strengthen our connection with the community.

[Read more...](#)



Respondents' use of social media (more than one option could be chosen).

Aims of the Edmonton Native Plant Society

- Promote knowledge of Edmonton area native plants
 - Conserve our native plant species and their habitat
 - Preserve native plant species and habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations
 - Educate individuals, businesses, and local governments about native plants
-

Lifetime ENPS Membership

You can now become an Edmonton Native Plant Society member for life. Memberships are \$20. Purchase by email: membership@enps.ca, through our website: <https://www.enps.ca/become-a-member> or visit one of our booths at plant events in your area. ENPS members are also eligible for a free Lifetime Membership with Nature Alberta.

Please send compliments, concerns and questions to: info@enps.ca
To unsubscribe or subscribe, email: info@enps.ca

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