



Entire-leaved Gumweed **U N**

Grindelia integrifolia

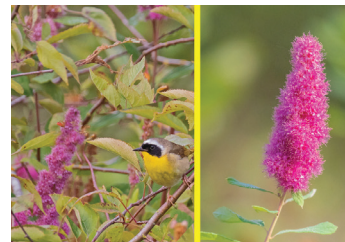
A characteristic plant of Boundary Bay dunes, Gumweed is one of 28 sunflower species in the Americas. Some are called Compass Plants, as they orient their leaves at a right angle to the sun. The yellow flower heads have sticky green bracts.



Rose Bedeguar Gall **U N**

The wasp is *Diplolepis rosae*

The Rose Bedeguar Gall or Robin's Pincushion is a growth on wild rose stems. The *Diplolepis* wasp injects eggs into the stems, inducing the gall. The grubs develop within the structure and the wasps emerge in spring. Downy Woodpeckers feed on the grubs.



Hardhack **M U N**

Spiraea douglasii

Also known as Steeplebush, this flowering shrub grows in wet areas of the west. It spreads by rhizomes, forming dense thickets. Branch bundles were used by Nuu-cha-nulth for collecting Dentalia shells, used as a pre-contact trade currency.



Salmonberry **M U N**

Rubus spectabilis

Salmonberry is one of the first plants to flower in spring, just as migratory Rufous Hummingbirds arrive. Its berries are a traditional food for First Nations, as are the peeled springtime shoots, which some Coast Salish call "saskiis".



Hawksbeard **M U I N**

Crepis sp.

Many of this genus of about 200 species originated in Eurasia, while three are native. All superficially resemble the dandelion, with the main difference being that *Crepis sp.* have long, solid, branching stems, with multiple flower heads.



Yellow Salisfy **U I**

Tragopogon dubius

This Eurasian annual was introduced to N. America and is now widespread. Flowers open early in the morning and close by dark. Super-large dandelion-like seed heads form in late summer.



Indian Plum **U N**

Oemleria cerasiformis

Also called Osoberry, this is one of the first plants to leaf out and flower in Spring. The flowers develop into edible fruits that resemble small dark blue plums when ripe. The fruit and bark are traditional First Nation sources for food and tea.



Scotch Broom **D U I**

Cytisus scoparius

This perennial European shrub, from the legume family that includes lupine, gorse, and laburnum, was deliberately introduced at Sooke Harbour in the mid-19th century. It is now the "poster child" of unwanted invasive species in BC!



Lupin **U I N**

Lupinus perennis

A member of the legume family, Lupins are often cultivated as ornamentals and as a food source. In Delta they grow wild. They are nitrogen-fixing and increase soil fertility. Lupins are larval food for the caterpillars of many butterfly species.



Common Snowberry **U N**

Symphoricarpos sp.

Also known as Ghostberry, this is one of 15 species of deciduous shrubs in the honeysuckle family. The white berries, growing in clumped bunches, contain alkaloids that are toxic to humans. Birds, however, are able to eat them.



Pearly Everlasting **U N**

Anaphalis margaritacea

Also called Western Pearly Everlasting, this Asian and N. American species in the sunflower family has separate male and female plants. It is a favourite food source for both the American Painted Lady and Painted Lady butterflies.



Spurge Laurel **U I**

Daphne laureola

This highly invasive evergreen bush has early spring yellowish-green flowers. It originated in Eurasia and is now very common in Delta parks. The entire plant is poisonous to humans, including the sap and black berries, which are edible for birds.



Wild Rose **U N**

Rosa sp.

There are five *sp.* of Wild Rose that can be seen in Delta, including the Nootka (shown here), Baldhip, Arkansas, Prairie, and Prickly Wild Rose. The petals, buds, young leaves and shoots, as well as the outer shell of the rosehips, are all edible.



Stinging Nettle **U N I**

Urtica dioica

There are two nettle subspecies in BC, one native, and the other from Eurasia. They have hollow hairs that cause stinging on contact. An important larval food source for many butterflies, their fibre was used traditionally by First Nations in making fishing nets.



St John's Wort **U I**

Hypericum perforatum

Common St John's Wort is a perennial Eurasian species with creeping rhizomes. It was first introduced here in 1896 as a traditional medicinal herb but is now an invasive weed, causing toxicity to livestock when eaten.



Tansy **U I**

Tanacetum vulgare

Native to temperate Eurasia, Tansy grows in abundance along Delta dykes. Tansy oils can cause contact dermatitis, but have been used in medicines and as an insect repellent. Tansy hosts ladybug larvae, and the seed heads are an important food source for birds.



Bull Thistle **U I**

Cirsium vulgare

This tall biennial, the national flower of Scotland, is native to Eurasia, and is widely naturalized in Canada, including Delta. A superior nectar source for insects, it is a host plant for the Painted Lady butterfly, and the seeds are a favourite food of Goldfinches.



Canada Thistle **U I**

Cirsium arvense

This thistle originated in Eurasia and is listed as a noxious weed in BC. The pink to white blossoms develop into fluffy seed heads that disperse with the wind. The underground root networks cause significant crop-yield losses in farmland.



White Sweet Clover **U I**

Melilotus albus

White Sweet Clover is of Eurasian origin but can now be found throughout N. America. This tall, bushy plant is common in sandy habitats and often grows along dykes in Delta. Its roots have nitrogen-fixing bacteria and it is an attractive plant for pollinators.



Yarrow **U N**

Achillea millefolium

Yarrow is a native perennial plant in the Aster family. It has finely divided leaves and usually white or pink flowers. Yarrow is a good food source for a wide variety of insects, including various moth larvae and beetles, and it is also a good butterfly attractant.

Flowering Plants in Delta

This is a collection of common flowering plants and bushes found in Boundary Bay Regional Park, along the dykes, and elsewhere around Delta.

The three general categories of dune, marsh, and uplands are used for preferred habitats; however, plants may be found in more than one habitat. Some plants will bloom for a relatively short period of their life-cycle, so it may be necessary to visit a location in different seasons in order to identify them all. Many of these plants serve as seasonal food sources for the insects, birds, and other animals that live here year-round, over-winter in Delta, or pass through on migration.

Trees, Shrubs, and Woodland Plants of Delta are covered in a separate brochure.

D = Dune **M** = Marsh **U** = Uplands **N** = Native **I** = Introduced



Common Stork's-bill **D U I**

Erodium cicutarium

This Eurasian species is widespread in N. America and can be found in bare, sandy, grassy places both inland and around the coasts. The seeds have self-dispersal mechanisms to help them spread and survive.



Beach Pea **D N**

Lathyrus japonicus

This sprawling perennial plant with trailing stems is a member of the Legume family. It occurs on gravelly and sandy coastal areas throughout the N. Hemisphere and in S. America. The showy dark-purple flowers have paler wing and keel petals.



Flat Peavine **D U I**

Lathyrus sylvestris

Related to Sweet Pea and common along the dykes of Boundary Bay, this native of Eurasia and N. Africa is in the Legume family, which also includes beans, peanuts, and alfalfa. Its stems are floppy with wide wings, and the 3-10 pink-to-white flowers have long stems.



Blanket Flower **D U N**

Gaillardia sp.

There are over 2 dozen species of this perennial member of the Daisy family native to the Americas. The flowers can be white, yellow, brown, purple, red, or bi-coloured. They are food plants for some caterpillars and bees.



Dodder **D M N**

Cuscuta sp.

Large orange patches spreading in summer across the Boundary Bay marsh are the stems of a parasitic, twining plant known as Dodder that grows on the Sea Asparagus. One of over 200 *sp.* in this leafless family, Dodder has tiny white flowers.

Use the iNaturalist app on a smart phone to identify plants not shown here.

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Delta



Large-headed Sedge **D N**
Carex macrocephala
 Sedges resemble grasses, but sedges have edges and grasses have round stems. Large-headed Sedge is a distinctive species that is found on coastal dunes and beaches here and in Asia. It is an important plant for stabilizing the upper sandy areas of Boundary Bay.



Northern Wormwood **D U N**
Artemisia campestris
 Found in open, dry, rocky, or sandy habitats, this plant is named for its use in removing parasitic worms. Several subspecies are found in Eurasia and N. America. It is related to *A. Absinthium*, used to flavour the aperitif spirit absinthe.



Prairie Peppergrass **D U N**
Lepidium densiflorum
 Also known as Common Pepperweed, this widespread edible flowering plant is a member of the mustard/cabbage family. The leaves have a peppery taste that can be removed by boiling them in water.



Sea Asparagus **D M N**
Salicornia pacifica
 Sea Asparagus, also called Glasswort, is an edible native plant that grows in ocean estuaries, creating important wildlife habitat. Most of the plant is stem: leaves are tiny scales, and flowers are sunk in hollows on the tip of spiky stems.



American Searocket **D N**
Cakile edentula
 One of 7 mustard family *sp.* that are native to N. America, this biennial succulent plant with edible leaves behaves as an annual in northern latitudes and is common on beaches and in dry sandy soils. Its long taproot helps in stabilizing these habitats.



Silver Burweed **D N**
Ambrosia chamissonis
 This West Coast native perennial herb grows on sand dunes and in gravelly places along the coast. Silver Burweed has flower heads with both male and female florets, which develop into seed-bearing silver burs.



Bittersweet Nightshade **M I**
Solanum dulcamara
 This pretty Eurasian vine, also called Woody Nightshade, is in the genus *Solanum*, which includes potato, tomato, and eggplant. All parts of the plant are poisonous to humans: sickness and death have been reported. Birds can eat the fruit and hence spread the seeds.



Bulrush **M N**
Typha sp.
Typha is a genus of 30 worldwide *sp.* of rushes also known as Reedmace, Cattail, or Punks. It is one of the first to colonize exposed muddy areas due to its long-lived, wind-dispersed seeds. *Typha* patches are important habitat for marsh birds.



Buttercup **M U I**
Ranunculus sp.
 There are about 600 *sp.* of buttercup. Two local varieties are the Western and Creeping Buttercups, which some butterflies use as food sources. Buttercups are poisonous to humans and cattle; the toxicity is lost when they are dried in hay.



Dock and Sorrel **M U N I**
Rumex sp.
 The docks and sorrels are a genus of about 200 worldwide perennial species in the buckwheat family. They have basal leaves with tall stems topped by inconspicuous green or red flowers. Sheep's Sorrel creates large red swathes when in flower.



Hedge Bindweed **M U I**
Calystegia sepium
 Also called Orchard Morning Glory, this ubiquitous nuisance weed twines around other plants. The white or pale pink, trumpet-shaped flowers develop into 2-4 seeds that are eaten by birds. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for decades.



Purple Loosestrife **M I**
Lythrum salicaria
 This tall purple Eurasian plant is a troublesome invasive in N. America, as it fills in wetlands with its thick growth. It requires different pollinators for each of its three flower types. Seed heads turn reddish in fall before going brown.



Sea Watch **M N**
Angelica lucida
 This salt-tolerant member of the celery family has showy white flowers and is found along northern Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Also called Wild Celery or Seacoast Angelica, it is a traditional food and medicinal source for many coastal First Nations.



Silverweed **M N**
Potentilla anserina
 Also known as Silver Cinquefoil, this perennial is native throughout the temperate N. Hemisphere, where it is found on riverbanks, dunes, and roadsides. The roots are a traditional food source of many First Nations, with families owning individual patches in some places.



Tule **M N**
Scirpus validus
 Tule, or Soft-stemmed Bulrush, has a nearly worldwide distribution. A giant sedge of freshwater marshes, it grows from rhizomes and has basal leaves. The long stems are traditionally used in weaving by coastal First Nations.



Watson's Willowherb **M N**
Epilobium watsonii
 Native to Canada, this species has spread to Eurasia. It has a four-petaled flower, and is part of a complex of similar-looking species referred to as Purple-leaved Willowherb. It prefers moist and disturbed places. Its downy seeds are easily wind-dispersed.



Yellow Iris **M I**
Iris pseudacorus
 This invasive aquatic plant, native to Eurasia, was introduced to N. America as an ornamental in the 1800s. It rapidly spreads by rhizomes or seeds, filling in natural wetlands. It is sometimes planted in wastewater ponds, as it has the ability to absorb heavy metals.



Barestem Desert-parsley **U N**
Lomatium nudicaule
 This tall perennial plant, also known as Indian Celery, belongs to the carrot family and is native to western N. America. The young plants are a traditional spring food for First Nations. Seeds are also burned as incense or chewed as throat-soothers.



Himalayan Blackberry **U I**
Rubus armeniacus
 An invasive species, this blackberry is native to Armenia. In Canada it has become both an important food source and habitat for wildlife from birds to bears. The Evergreen Blackberry is a similar, less common species, with a frillier leaf and harder seed.



Blue-eyed Mary **D U N**
Collinsia parviflora
 One of the first local wildflowers to bloom in spring, it occurs throughout much of western N. America in suitable habitat. In April it can be found blooming on areas of the Boundary Bay sand dunes. It is also known as Small-flowered Collinsia.



Butter and Eggs **U I**
Linaria vulgaris
 This medium-tall perennial flower is also called Yellow Toadflax. A native of Eurasia, it is now widely naturalized in N. America, where it is sometimes used in folk medicine. The snapdragon-like flowers are visited by bumblebees and provide food for several moth and butterfly species.



Canadian Goldenrod **U N**
Solidago canadensis
 A native plant east of the Rockies, Goldenrod is a valuable nectar source for paper wasps, bumblebees, and honeybees. It blooms in clumps along the dykes in summer, and the fall seed heads attract Goldfinches and other small birds.



Oxeye Daisy **U I**
Leucanthemum vulgare
 This perennial plant of Eurasian origin is now found worldwide. The plants spread by seeds and underground rhizomes. The tall stems have the largest leaves at the base. In some habitats, the dense colonies can displace native species.



Pacific Aster **M U N**
Symphyotrichum chilensis
 Pacific Aster is a perennial herb of the Pacific NW. A hardy plant, it spreads by underground stems (rhizomes) and thrives on coastal shorelines. The daisy-like blue-purple flowers produce seed heads that become a fall food source for birds.



Sweet Fennel **U I**
Foeniculum vulgare
 This medium-sized perennial grows in shady, moist habitats in coastal BC. The plants have bronze or green heart-shaped basal leaves and multiple bell-like flowers on tall stems. The white flowers appear in late spring and become pink with age.



Fireweed **M U N**
Epilobium angustifolium
 In the Evening Primrose family, Fireweed grows throughout the N. Hemisphere. Its parachute seeds can lie dormant for years, and it is an early colonizer on bare or burned lands. The fibres and seed fluff have traditionally been used by First Nations.



Bitter Wintercress **U I**
Barbarea vulgaris
 Native to Eurasia, this member of the mustard family has bright yellow flowers. It blooms much earlier in the season (April-May) than wild mustard and is considered a noxious weed in many areas of N. America. The plant reproduces only by seeds.



Great Mullein **U I**
Verbascum thapsus
 Also called Common Mullein, this strikingly tall, non-native biennial produces only leaves in its first year. The yellow flower spike develops in the second year. Mullein prefers disturbed soils, where its long-lived seeds can germinate soon after the ground receives light.