

## Rare Newfoundland Lichens

The four lichens shown here are all **cyanolichens**. Lichens are a composite organism made up of a fungus and algae – the algae does the photosynthesis, and the fungus provides shelter for the algae. In cyanolichens, the photosynthetic partner is a cyanobacteria instead of an algae (although algae may be present). All four lichens here are listed by COSEWIC (committee on the status of endangered wildlife in Canada), but only two are protected under the Federal Species at Risk Act. This guide should help you recognize one if you see it.





**Boreal Felt Lichen (***Erioderma pedicellatum***)** – (wet specimen on left and dry on right) This lichen is known from two "hotspots" on the island: The central Avalon and the Bay d'Espoir area. It is gray-brown and fuzzy in appearance; when wet it turns deep green. It's most noticeable feature are the red round apothecia (fruiting bodies) on the surface. The underside is pale and the edges are often upturned. In Newfoundland, it is usually found on balsam fir tree trunks in older, moist forests.

→ Listed by COSEWIC as SPECIAL CONCERN and PROTECTED under the Species at Risk Act



**Vole Ears Lichen (***Erioderma mollissimum***)** – This lichen looks very similar to Boreal Felt Lichen but does not have apothecia and its lower surface has a brownish fuzzy covering. It is much rarer in Newfoundland than *E. pedicellatum* but is usually found in similar habitat.

→ Listed by COSEWIC as ENDANGERED and PROTECTED under the Species at Risk Act



Blue Felt Lichen (Degelia plumbea) – When wet, this lichen turns bluish grey and has reddish brown apothecia (fruiting bodies). Its leadgrey colour with pale striations radiating from the centre to the edge are what make this lichen stand out. The underside is a think black "mat". It is usually found on deciduous trees.

→ Listed by COSEWIC as SPECIAL CONCERN and NOT PROTECTED under the Species at Risk Act



Wrinkled Shingle Lichen (*Pannaria lurida*) – This lichen is brown to greybrown when dry and olive-brown or dark green when wet. It is covered with a fuzzy cover that is usually brown to grey. Its fruiting bodies (apothecia) are red-brown disks with white-grey margins. It is found on trees and rocks.

→ Listed by COSEWIC as THREATENED and NOT PROTECTED under the Species at Risk Act