

HOW DID THE STREAMBANK LUPINE BECOME ENDANGERED?

The streambank lupine was probably never common in our region, but severe habitat loss due to floodplain development has made it endangered.

You Can Help!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Working cooperatively with the Streambank Lupine Recovery Team, landowners and stakeholders can make a difference in saving this endangered species. Steps for protection and recovery may be as simple as fine-tuning site maintenance activities such as mowing, weed control, and brushing so that plants are allowed to mature, flower and set seed. In some cases, simple fencing may be all it takes to protect a populations.

Encouraging research into the specific growing conditions of this lupine will allow us to understand why it grows where it does, and where else it might grow.

Working together, we can pull this species back from the brink.



STREAMBANK LUPINE: *(Lupinus rivularis)*

A Canadian Species In Peril



This brochure was prepared by the Streambank Lupine Recovery Team. If you have questions about the streambank lupine, contact your regional office of the BC Ministry of Environment.

Photos Courtesy of Sylvia Letay & Brian Klinkenberg, Map Courtesy of E-Flora BC; Brochure Design by Diane's Digitals

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AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

The streambank lupine is a species in peril in Canada and is now listed as endangered under the Canadian Species at Risk Act (SARA). For this reason, government agencies and the Streambank Lupine Recovery Team are working towards protecting, and ultimately recovering, populations of this fragile species.



WHAT IS THE STREAMBANK LUPINE?

The streambank lupine is a member of the Pea or Legume Family of flowering plants, and is related to our garden lupines. When plants are fully-grown, they form a distinctive bouquet shape topped by lavender coloured pea-like flowers. Plants can grow to three feet tall and three or four

feet wide. Seedpods become blackened as they age.

In Canada, the streambank lupine is found in only 5 locations, all in British Columbia.

WHEN DOES THE STREAMBANK LUPINE FLOWER?

This is an early blooming species of lupine that begins flowering in May. Sparse flowering continues until late August or early September, and seed set is on going throughout that time. After flowering, the plant produces characteristic black-mottled seedpods that resemble pea pods, and these are a good way to separate this lupine from others found in the area.



Blackened seedpods of streambank lupine

WHERE IS THE STREAMBANK LUPINE FOUND GLOBALLY?

The streambank lupine is found today in only five locations in Canada, all of them in the extreme southwest corner of British Columbia. One population of streambank lupine has been found on Vancouver

Island in a natural floodplain setting, amidst gravel and small river rock deposits. However, the other four populations occur along creeks and riverbanks in the heavily developed lower Fraser Valley. In spite of considerable searching, new colonies of the streambank lupine have not been found.



Distribution of streambank lupine in BC

Globally, the streambank lupine is found only along the Pacific Coast of North America.

WHERE DOES THE STREAMBANK LUPINE GROW?

The streambank lupine is a coastal species found in British Columbia only on river, creek and slough banks at low elevations along the coast. Although floodplain development has eliminated much of its natural habitat in the province, the lupine has managed to persist in relict populations in small, localized patches on developed floodplains, and on dykes and railway beds adjacent to creeks and sloughs where the growing conditions mimic natural conditions.