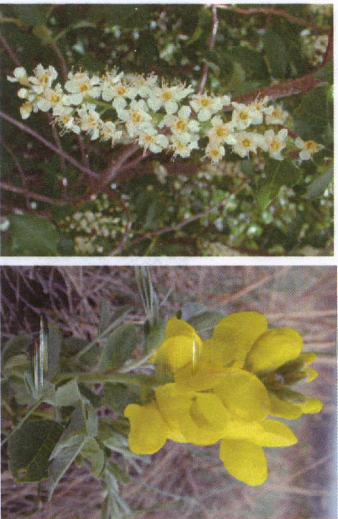


# Federation of Alberta Naturalists Alberta May Count of Plants in Bloom (May 25-31, 2010)



The Alberta May Count of Plants in Bloom is an annual event sponsored by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN). This year, the dates for Count Weekend are May 29 and 30, but since count weekend dates vary from year to year, all data collected during Count Week, May 25-31, are valid.

### History of FAN May Plant Count:

- Suggested by Lorán Goulden in 1974.
- First count initiated by Chip Weseloh and Julie Hrapko in 1976.
- Conducted province-wide and compiled by FAN since then.

### Objectives:

1. To record all species of vascular plants in bloom throughout Alberta during the last week in May.
2. Using a standardized approach, determine the stage of flowering (phenology) of each species in bloom.

### Importance of May Count:

- Provides valuable information on the distribution and phenology of flowering plants in Alberta.

- Important for monitoring spread of non-native species (invasive plants).
- Provides insight into response of plant species to variations in climate (climate change, global warming).
- Increases knowledge of native plants and improves expertise in plant identification.
- Encourages appreciation and conservation of native plants and habitats.

### Who Can Participate:

- Anyone who is interested in, and familiar with, Alberta wildflowers. Expertise in wild flower identification is valuable, but not mandatory.

### How You Can Participate:

1. Select your favorite natural area(s).
2. Contact your local natural history society or May Count compilers to obtain a checklist of plants in your area, if available.
3. During Count week (May 25-31, 2010) survey your area and record on your checklist any species that are in bloom. A hand-written list is acceptable.

*Thank you for your participation*



4. Include both native and exotic plants (weeds) in your list.
5. If surveying more than one location, record observations on separate checklists.
6. If possible, document the flowering stage of each plant in bloom using the following code:
  - 3 = in bud but not flowering
  - 4 = in bloom up to 10%
  - 5 = in bloom up to 25%
  - 6 = in bloom up to 50%
  - 7 = full bloom (100%)
  - 8 = fading
  - 9 = completely faded; no flowers.
7. Record date, participant(s) names, location and habitat details. Unusual observations, comments, and comparisons with previous years are extremely valuable. If necessary, obtain photographs and/or dried specimens for identification purposes.
8. Forward checklists, observations, photos, specimens to Count compiler:

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Further details can be obtained from the Count compiler.

Please submit **Count results** by **June 30, 2010**.

A summary of your observations will be published in *Nature Alberta*.

