



Coltsfoot

Tussilago farfara



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Coltsfoot

Tussilago farfara

General: Coltsfoot is an introduced plant from Europe and usually the first small herb to flower in spring. It is considered an invasive plant in some areas.

Leaves & Twigs: This plant has solid, hairy stems that give rise to the flowers which open before the hairy, dark green, hoof-shaped leaves.

Flowers & Fruit: The shiny yellow flowers which resemble small dandelion flowers open in the sun. The plant's composite flower heads contain two kinds of flowers: little tube-like ones in the middle and strap-shaped ones on the outside.

Habitat: Found growing along sunny sidewalks and roadsides and in rocky fields on the island of Newfoundland but not found in Labrador.

Blooming Time: Late April-May

How to Observe: Select a typical patch of plants, if the plants are very abundant, mark off a one meter square patch.

First Bloom: When the first flowers are open on the observed plants. Note that flowers close at night and on cloudy days.

Mid Bloom: When half of the flowers are open on the observed plants.

Note: To distinguish between coltsfoot and dandelion the flowers appear before the leaves in coltsfoot and after the leaves emerge in dandelion.