



Dandelion

Taraxacum officinale



Environment
Canada

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General: Dandelion is a common plant, 5–40 cm tall, introduced to Canada from Europe.

Leaves & Twigs: Dandelion has deeply toothed leaves which grow from the base of the plant, appearing before the flowers.

Flowers & Fruits: The flower heads are yellow and the flower stem is hollow and leafless. After a stem finishes flowering, white, fluffy, round balls of seeds appear. The parachuted seeds are blown away by the wind.

Habitat: Dandelions grow almost anywhere, but are common in cultivated areas and wastelands throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

Blooming Time: May-June but there can be some occurrences throughout the summer.

How to Observe: Make sure your patch is not mowed until your bloom observations have been made. Choose a location at least 10 m away from a building or obstacle. If these plants are very abundant, mark off a one meter square patch of plants to observe.

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

Mid Bloom: When the first seed head opens, forming a white, fluffy ball of seeds 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.