Develop with Care 2014

FACT SHEET #16

Vancouver Island Beggarticks

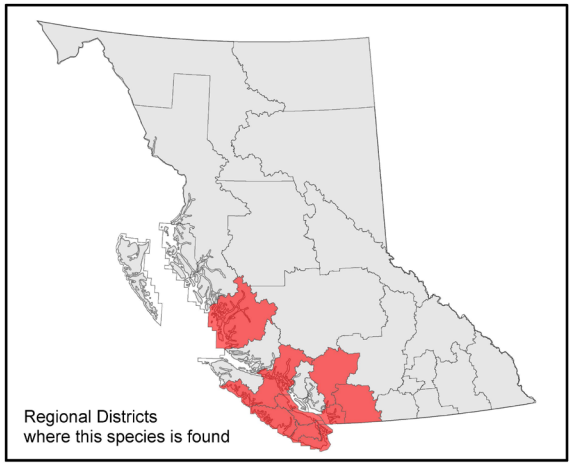
Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia

Are you planning a development or logging on your property? If your property includes the edges of ponds, lakes, streams, creeks, channelized watercourses, swamps, and other wetlands in the Lower Mainland, Gulf Islands, or on Vancouver Island, it may support critical habitat features for the Vancouver Island Beggarticks. This fact sheet will provide you with important information about complying with the law and protecting this species while still benefiting from the enjoyment and value of your property.

Despite its name, Vancouver Island Beggarticks is also found in the Lower Mainland in open, moist habitats at low elevations, where water levels are high in winter and spring and low in summer. These changing water levels help keep the species' open, silted, habitats suitable for growth. It is found in shoreline marshes, wet fields, bogs, willow wetlands, ditches, stream banks, pond edges, and lake margins, as well as within tidal zones of the Fraser River.

The Vancouver Island Beggarticks prefers silty alluvial soils and often occurs in locations used by waterfowl, where seeds have likely been deposited by preening birds.

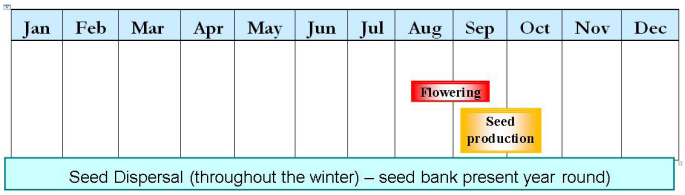
There are several species and hybrids which resemble Vancouver Island Beggarticks (such as the very common Nodding Beggarticks), so a plant expert should be consulted to confirm the identification of this species.



At Risk

This species is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, found only in coastal areas of southern British Columbia and Washington State. Over 85% of this species' range

Vancouver Island Beggarticks *Bidens amplissima*	Nodding Beggarticks *Bidens cernua*
Toothed, unlobed to deeply three-lobed leaves, widest near the base, 6–9 yellow ray petals	Strap-like leaves that are widest at the middle
Hemi-spherical flower heads	Spherical flower heads
Achene (seed) structure: no yellow layer on the top	Achene (seed) structure: thick waxy-looking yellow layer on the top of the body of the seed
Found along wet shorelines, can withstand daily inundation, dry habitat in summer	Found in standing water (year-round)



is within B.C., with 30 recently recorded sites and 18 historical sites. It is rated as one of the highest priority species for provincial protection under the B.C. Conservation Framework and has been recognized as a species of global importance because of its narrow global range.

Legally Protected

The Vancouver Island Beggarticks is a species of Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA), and is provincially Blue-listed. Modifications to features that affect its habitat may require authorization under the Water Act and/or the federal Fisheries Act. Activities such as changes in site hydrology, soil composition or shade, pollution from toxic chemicals, and dumping of garden waste (including brush piling) as well as encroachment of urban development could damage or destroy a Vancouver Island Beggartick population.

Development Guidelines

More detailed guidelines for protecting Environmentally Valuable Resources are provided in *Develop with Care 2014: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia*.

☑ Maintain natural variation in water levels. Fixed, managed water levels will allow competing species to replace Beggarticks. Do not alter surface or groundwater hydrology, or channelize watercourses.

☑ Create buffer zones around populations to minimize access by people and animals. A minimum buffer of at least 30 m from the top of bank or the wetland high water level is recommended, however advice from a qualified professional should be sought. Within buffer zones, prevent overgrazing by livestock and overuse by

recreational activities such as trail building, boat launching, and storage. If fencing is required, use an open style that allows passage by small mammals and waterfowl.

☑ Ensure that site/park workers are aware of the species habitats, and closely supervise any work.

☑ Maintain open unshaded habitat. On overgrown sites, restore open areas by cutting back shrubs and saplings in late fall. Occasional mowing (between October and March) may be required after seed set. Do not plant other species near Beggarticks as they are susceptible to changes in shade, nutrients, and invasive species.

☒ Avoid digging or construction activities that can alter shoreline habitat, which harbours important seed banks and provides a critical seed source in adverse years.

☒ Do not discard garden waste, brush cuttings or other materials in Beggarticks habitat. Control invasive species and other species (such as cattails) that prevent germination of their seeds.

☒ Avoid using herbicides or other toxic substances (e.g., in nearby golf courses or gardens). Water bodies near populations should be protected from chemical impacts since this species often occurs on gently sloping ground and is impacted by surface and groundwater quality.

☑ Report occurrences or observations of activities threatening its habitat to the regional Species at Risk Biologist.

For more information: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/BMP/bmpintro.html

Develop with Care 2014: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia
Wetland Ways: Interim Guidelines for Wetland Protection and Conservation in British Columbia

Protocols for rare plant surveys http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/

Photos: Vancouver Island Beggarticks: Brian and Rose Klinkenberg