

## Cannabaceae hemp family

Both genera comprising this north-temperate family, are found in Nova Scotia as intentional introductions. Pungently aromatic, they are dioecious, their leaves palmately lobed or compound, and toothed. Stipules are present and persistent. Flowers are 5-merous; petals are absent. Staminate flowers are arranged loosely in racemes or panicles; pistillate flowers are densely packed, the calyx tightly clasping the ovary. The styles are divided in two to the base. Fruit is a glandular achene.

The family is a source of fibre, oils, edible seeds, hops and a psychoactive drug, THC.

Key to genera

Leaves palmately compound; stems erect, not spiny.

*Cannabis*

Leaves with 3–5 lobes; stems spiny, vining.

*Humulus*

### ***Cannabis* L.**

#### **Hemp**

Monotypic, hemp is native to Eurasia. Pistillate flowers are axillary at the top of the plants. Individual flowers are tightly enclosed by the calyces which are barely lobed. Leaves are opposite, serrate and palmately compound on long petioles, although the upper leaves may be smaller and simple. Generally plants are annual in Nova Scotia.

### ***Cannabis sativa* L.**

#### **Marijuana, Mary Jane; chanvre cultivé**



*Photo by David Mazerolle*

As above and may reach 2 m in height, appearing shrublike.

Flowers June to October.

Not persistent, escaping from cultivation periodically.

Sporadic collections have been made from Lunenburg, Digby, Kings and Pictou counties.

Scattered from NS west to BC and southward. Adventive

from Asia. With the renewed interest in hemp products, perhaps may become more common.

## ***Humulus L.***

### **Hops**

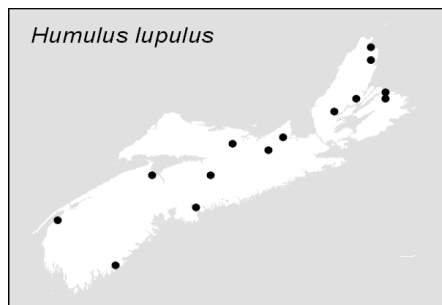
Three species comprise this genus, all are north-temperate in distribution. Perennials, they are vines with unisexual flowers. The staminate flowers are carried in a diffuse inflorescence 15cm long, on separate plants. Pistillate flowers are tiny, within a cluster of papery bracts and bracteoles, to 6cm in length.

### ***Humulus lupulus L.***

#### **Hops; houblon commun**



Photo by David Mazerolle



Clambering on adjacent trees and shrubs, these vines may reach 10m in length. The opposite leaves are usually 3-lobed occasionally 5-lobed, their margins serrate. Distal leaves may be merely ovate and serrated. The fruit (hops) are stramineous at maturity and cylindrical. The plants are aromatic from the resin.

Two varieties are recognized, the typical variety which is introduced and var. *lupuloides* E. Small, a native form. Our material should be examined to determine varietal distribution. The native variety is probably rare.

Flowers during the summer months.

Sometimes persisting around old house sites and in hedges in agricultural land.

Formerly much planted, still found occasionally.

Reported from most of the continent, wherever hops were

planted. It is of Eurasian origin and partly native.