

Lichens:

- A symbiotic organism – between algae and fungi.
- Fungus provides structure and shelter for the alga. This allows the alga to live in many more places (outside of H_2O).
- Alga provides food through photosynthesis. This gives fungus lots more places to live (away from decaying material).

Lichens

This is a list several common species found in the Northwest.

This is not a complete list of all of the species we will see.

You may need to visit the links on the next page and throughout this presentation to find more information about each species. Feel free to explore other sites as well.

Helpful links

Images and other resources

<http://gis.nacse.org/lichenair/>

Lichen description and sensitivity rating by species

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/aq/lichen/images.htm>

Key – (may not need it)

<http://people.oregonstate.edu/~mccuneb/pnw.PDF>

Ramalina menziesii

<http://ocid.nacse.org/classroom/lichens/denison/fig18.html>

Common Name: Fishnet
Lichen

Appearance: Long, hanging
greenish gray thallus

Thallus: Fruticose, hanging
flattened netlike branches

Comments: Easily recognized



Thallus: "Body" of the lichen

Fruticose: Hair-like, stranded

Usnea subfloridana

<http://ocid.nacse.org/classroom/lichens/denison/fig21.html>

Common Name: Bushy Cord Lichen

Appearance: Pale greenish-yellow tufts of fuzzy branches

Thallus: Fruticose, cylindrical branches with fine side branches, Outer part of thallus breaks into short segments

Comments: black base and elastic inner core are a distinguishing characteristic.



Evernia prunastri

<http://ocid.nacse.org/classroom/lichens/denison/fig5.html>

Common Name: Wrinkled Evernia
Appearance: Medium shaped bushy or hanging thallus, with flat strap-like branches, olive green to greenish gray, 3-8 cm. thallus
Thallus: Fruticose to almost foliose, often with upper surface darker colored than lower surface.
Comments: Differs from other fruticose lichens because of different upper and lower surfaces.



Foliose: Leaf or sheet-like

Lobaria pulmonaria

<http://ocid.nacse.org/classroom/lichens/denison/fig10.html>

Common Name: Lungwort
Appearance: Large 5-25 cm
lobed branched sheets, light
greenish-brown when dry,
bright green when wet,
covered with raised folds.
Thallus: Foliose, composed of
broad thin branches or lobes,
lower surface mottled white
and tan.
Comments: Large green
lettuce like lichen with
puckered thallus is easily
recognized. Contains Nitrogen
fixing blue-green algae.



Hypogymnia physodes

<http://ocid.nacse.org/classroom/lichens/denison/fig6.html>

Common Name: Inflated
Hypogymnia

Appearance: Rough medium sized patches of irregular flattened, overlapping branches, pale gray on upper branches and black below.

Thallus: Foliose, branches loosely attached to bark, lacks rhizines

Comments: color similar whether wet or dry.



Branches are little rounded hollow tubes

Parmelia sulcata

<http://ocid.nacse.org/classroom/lichens/denison/fig12.html>

Common Name: Net-marked
Parmelia

Appearance: Pale gray to
greenish-gray

Thallus: Foliose, Consisting
of flat overlapping branches,
Upper surface pale gray or
greenish gray when dry.

Lower surface dark brown to
blackish. Covered with
blackish rhizines over the
entire lower side.

Comments: Network of white
ridges on the upper surfaces
of the lobes distinguishes
from other species.



Ramalina farinacea

<http://ocid.nacse.org/classroom/lichens/denison/fig16.html>

Common Name: Mealy Ramalina

Appearance: Tufted, upright, pale greenish gray thallus, slender irregular branches.

Thallus: Fruticose thallus, upright, rarely hanging, irregular flattened branches. Pale greenish gray to yellowish-green when dry and wet.



hairlike ends

- Collect 1 specimen of each lichen species
- Keep track of where each specimen came from
- You need to be able to ID these on your own
- Go get more if you need to - keep track of locations!

