

**Scientific Name:** *Draba nemorosa* L.

**Family:** *Brassicaceae*

**Common Names:** woodland draba

### Plant Description

Annual herb. Stems are mostly 3 to 35 cm tall with simple and forked hairs; leaves near-basal (bottom third of stem), 2 to 45 mm by 1 to 20 mm, ovate-lanceolate to obovate, denticulate, simple with few long stalked bifid and trifid cruciform hairs above and mostly long-stalked cruciform hairs below; raceme open, flowers yellow, 10 to 15 per raceme; sepals 2 mm long, glabrous or with simple hairs; petals 2 to 4 mm long, yellow (Moss 1983).

**Fruit:** 3 to 6 mm long (1 to 2 mm wide) elliptic glabrous or pubescent dehiscent silicle; seeds in two rows.



*Draba nemorosa* with some green silicles.

**Seed:** Seed are light brown, 0.5 mm long, 0.3 mm wide, ovoid (Moss 1983).

### Habitat and Distribution

Moist to dry open ground (Moss 1983). Rock outcrops, open wooded slopes, meadows and prairies, stream banks, roadsides, disturbed gravelly grounds, waste places (eFloras.org n.d.).

**Seral Stage:** Early.

**Soil:** Disturbed soils.

**Distribution:** Throughout Alberta. More or less circumpolar. Southern Alaska, southern Yukon, southern District of Mackenzie to Hudson Bay, southwestern Quebec south to California, Colorado, Nebraska, Minnesota (Moss 1983).

### Phenology

Blooms in mid to late summer.

### Pollination

Insect pollinated (Plants for a Future n.d.).

### Genetics

$2n=16$  (Moss 1983).

### Symbiosis

None known.

### Seed Processing

**Collection:** Seeds can be handpicked by snipping or breaking stems into bags. Allow pods to dry on plant; break open to collect seeds (Dave's Garden n.d.).

**Seed Weight:** 0.03 g/1,000 seeds (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2008).

**Harvest Dates:** Unknown, possibly August.

**Cleaning:** Air-dry seeds in paper or Tyvek bags at 15 to 25°C. Crush material or remove large chaff and crush remaining material. Sieve to remove seeds from chaff using appropriate size screens.

**Storage:** Store frozen in hermetically sealed containers after dry (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2008).

**Storage Behaviour:** Orthodox, seed can be dried to 3% to 7% relative humidity and stored at freezing temperatures (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2008).

**Longevity:** Possibly long term with ultra-dry seed (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2008).

### Propagation

**Natural Regeneration:** Naturally regenerates from seeds.

**Germination:** 85% germination in 1% agar media in temperatures of 25°C for 8 hour day and 10°C 12 hour night with pre-treatments (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2008).

**Pre-treatment:** Seed was scarified by chipping with a scalpel (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2008). Stratification suggested for indoor seeding (Dave's Garden n.d.).

### Aboriginal/Food Uses

**Food:** No literature found.

**Medicinal:** No literature found.

**Other:** No literature found.

### Wildlife/Forage Usage

**Wildlife:** No literature found.

**Livestock:** Poor forage for all *Draba sp.* (Tannas 2004).

**Grazing Response:** Increaser (Tannas 2004).

### Commercial Resources

**Availability:** No literature found.

**Cultivars:** No literature found.

**Uses:** No literature found.

### Reclamation Potential

An early seral species, *Draba nemorosa* would likely be easy to establish on freshly disturbed sites.

Suggested for xeriscaping (Dave's Garden n.d.).

### Notes

Requires both the flowers and fruit for proper identification (Tannas 2004).

### Photo Credits

**Photo 1:** Dalgial. 2010. Wikimedia Commons.

### References

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