

# Lichens of the National Mall

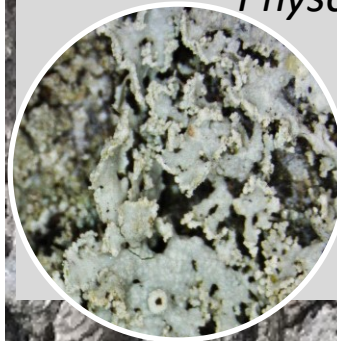
Lichens are a kind of fungus that lives with algae or cyanobacteria in the tissues – they don't hurt trees or people.

Some lichens are sensitive to pollution, but the lichens of the National Mall are pollution tolerant species

You can find lichens on trees or rocks all year long. These are some common lichens in Washington DC. Happy lichen hunting!

## Lichens on bark

On the mall south of Museum of Natural History



*Physcia millegrana* is a light grey lichen with grainy edges (also grows on rock)

*Candelaria concolor* is a bright yellow lichen (also grows on rock)



*Flavoparmelia caperata* is a yellow-green lichen



## Lichens on bark

On cherry trees by the tidal basin

*Lecanora* looks like a white smear with peach polka dots. Those polka dots are fruiting bodies that hold the lichens' spores.



*Amandinea polyspora* has black spots you have to look closely to find this lichen and several species look similar

*Cladonia* lichens are small blue-green flakes, often on tree bases.



Some *Cladonia* have red-topped fruiting bodies and are called British soldier lichens.



# Lichens on rock

At the base of the Lincoln Monument

Some lichens can grow on concrete in parking lots or on the shaded parts of monuments.

*Physciella chloantha*

*Candelaria concolor*

*Myriolechis dispersa*

# Lichens on bark

On Roosevelt Island

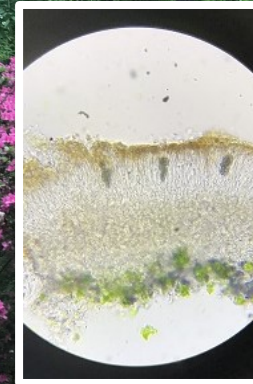
*Phaeophyscia rubropulchra* lichens are grey lichens showing **orange inside** where the lichens are broken.

*Parmotrema* lichens are grey-blue lichens with a white underside and black hairs called cilia

*Punctelia* are also grey-blue lichens but these have tiny white dots on the surface

# Find lichens in your park

Use a hand lens  
Or magnifying glass  
To see the lichens more clearly



Lichens can reproduce by spores – to see them, use a microscope

Share lichens with friends in person or online!

