

BEARWALLOW SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find all of these plants while you hike Bearwallow Mountain?
Check them off as you go!



Walnut Seed (*Juglans*)

Walnuts are usually green when they first fall to the ground and turn brown over time. Their deciduous trees have deep roots that produce a chemical that prevents plants from growing nearby. **Fun Fact:** The wood from trees is commonly used for building and manufacturing, and the nuts are used for human consumption. They offer **many health benefits!**

Blue Aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*)

Blue aster is often a very pale shade of blue, and can look very similar to daisies. Its leaves are smooth and waxy, and can grow to be almost four inches long. **Fun Fact:** They are perennials, which means they grow back every year. The entire plant can grow from **1 to 3 feet tall!**



Puffball Mushroom (*Lycoperdon perlatum*)

These mushrooms are generally round or oval shaped and can grow to be the size of a soccer ball! Puffballs should feel spongy and can sometimes have warts. **Fun Fact:** They are edible once they turn fully brown and contain many vitamins. Native Americans used spores from them as a coagulant for humans and animals.

Cow (*Bos taurus*)

Cows are generally gentle creatures. They can come in a variety of shapes and sizes, with different fur lengths and coat colors. Male cows are referred to as bulls, and they are usually much larger than female cows. **Fun Fact:** Cows actually have **four stomachs**- the first two allow the cow to regurgitate previously chewed and undigested cud. The last two digest the food to give the cow energy.

Please do not approach or pet any cows!



Fern (Tracheophyta)



Ferns are green and can be spotted in many different ecosystems. They do not produce seeds, but they spread spores to populate. As they grow from the ground, their stem unfurls. Ferns are called fiddleheads in this stage.

Fun Fact: Some species are edible!



Goldenrod (Solidago)

This is an aggressive flower that frequently takes over ecosystems. Goldenrod prefers infertile soil with lots of sunlight. They are easy to spot with the bright yellow flowers, skinny leaves, and hairy stems. The plant can grow 2-6 feet tall! **Fun Fact:** They have many medicinal uses when made into an herbal tea.

Jimsonweed (Datura stramonium)



This very toxic plant goes by many names- devil's trumpet, thorn apple, or devil's snare. It's seeds are spiked and green, the stem is a pale yellow green, and leaves are large and serrated. It is commonly found in fertile, manure-covered areas. **Fun Fact:** It has some medicinal properties, if it is used in small amounts.



Thistle (Cirsium)



Thistles have sharp stems and leaves that prevent herbivores from consuming them. They often have a spindly purple flower. It is an invasive weed that can be very difficult to remove due to deep root systems. **Fun Fact:** Many species of insects are attracted to the flowers, and some birds use thistle for their nests!

Please remember to be respectful to all plant and animal life while hiking!

Having fun on Bearwallow Mountain? Let us know! Share and tag pictures of your hike and scavenger hunt on social media.

Instagram & Facebook - **@ConservingCarolina**

Bearwallow Mountain Plant Key



Section 1:

- Walnut Seed
- Blue Aster
- Fern

Section 2:

- Walnut Seed
- Blue Aster
- Fern
- Puffball Mushroom

Section 3:

- Puffball Mushroom
- Goldenrod
- Jimsonweed
- Thistle
- Cows