



## What's the National Flower of Canada?

We have an official tree- the maple, but we do NOT have an official flower! [Master Gardeners of Ontario](#) thinks Canada's 150th birthday is the perfect time to launch a campaign to get one!

[Toronto Master Gardeners](#) with help from [Todd Boland](#), Research Horticulturist at [Memorial University of Newfoundland](#), came up with the following three choices for a pan-Canadian flower-one that appears in every province and territory but is not already a provincial or territorial emblem:

### **Hooded Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*)**

- Unique spiraling flower spike marks this genus
- Found in open wet areas – meadows, bogs, marshes
- Fragrant flowers from July to Sept on 10 to 50 cm stems
- Food source for native bumblebees all through summer



### **Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)**

- Delicate but tough! “borealis” – of the north
- Found in forests, wetlands all over Canada
- Reproduces mainly by spreading stolons
- Fragrant flowers on 15 cm stems for one week in June, attract native bees
- Winter forage for caribou



### **Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)**

- Changes with the seasons - just like Canada!
- White flowers in spring, red berries in summer, great red-purple fall colour
- Very common in forests and wetlands all over Canada
- Creeping form, 10 to 20 cm tall, great as a native groundcover
- Pollinators include native bumblebees and solitary bees
- Berries are food source for small and large mammals, migratory birds
- Winter forage source for caribou, moose, elk, deer



Voting will close at midnight on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Vote now!**

# Ballots

My vote for the National Flower of Canada is:

- Hooded Ladies Tresses** (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*)
- Twinflower** (*Linnaea borealis*)
- Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*)

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