

B O R E A C I D I C L S O I L

● When you think of the boreal forest, you likely think of the trees towering overhead. But a key part of the forest community lies hidden beneath your feet. Boreal forest soil varies from place to place, but in general, it's acidic and low in nutrients. The soil's acidity comes from the conifers that grow. Conifer needles are loaded with acidic tannins, which are released when the needles fall to the ground and slowly decompose. The tannins in the needles that make their way into waterways will turn the water a rusty brown color. That high level of acidity, combined with the cold climate and wet ground, limits the kinds of plants that can grow here.



*Pitcher plant
(carnivorous)*



Club moss mini forest



Sundew (carnivorous)

DID YOU KNOW?

Though you may not find them along this trail, some boreal forest plants have adapted to the nutrient-poor soil by adding insects to their diet. Sticky droplets on the sundew act like flypaper, trapping small bugs. As the insects decay, the sundew absorbs their nutrients.