

LICHENS

These were the two most commonly found types of lichen at the farm:

Leafy Xanthoria species

Found growing on fencing around paddocks, and tree trunks.

The Xanthoria family of lichens thrive in an atmosphere high in nitrogen compounds, and their presence is therefore an indicator of air quality, showing that there are nitrogen-containing pollutants (nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide) present.

The orange rounded bits are its fruiting bodies.



Physcia species

Found together with the above on fencing around paddocks and on tree trunks elsewhere, including the Wildlife Garden, though only ever in small patches.

Like the Xanthoria, Physcia is a nitrogen-loving family of lichens, again indicating nitrogen-containing pollutants are present.

The close-up photo shows its lobes and distinctive 'whiskers'.

