

Washington Flora Checklist

A checklist of the Vascular Plants of Washington State Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

Family: Gentianaceae

16 terminal taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties).

The Washington Flora Checklist aims to be a complete list of the native and naturalized vascular plants of Washington State, with current classifications, nomenclature and synonymy.

Taxa included in the checklist:

- Native taxa whether extant, extirpated, or extinct.
- Exotic taxa that are naturalized, escaped from cultivation, or persisting wild.
- Waifs (e.g., ballast plants, escaped crop plants) and other scarcely collected exotics.
- Interspecific hybrids that are frequent or self-maintaining.
- Some unnamed taxa in the process of being described.

Family classifications follow [APG IV](#) for angiosperms, PPG I (J. Syst. Evol. 54:563-603. 2016.) for pteridophytes, and Christenhusz et al. (Phytotaxa 19:55-70. 2011.) for gymnosperms, with a few exceptions. Nomenclature and synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.

Accepted names are indicated with **blue type**, synonyms with **gray type**.

Native species and infraspecies are marked with **bold-face type**.

*Non-native and introduced taxa are preceded by an asterisk.

Please note: This is a working checklist, continuously updated. Use it at your discretion.

Created from the Washington Flora Checklist database on April 2nd, 2026 at 7:17am PT.
Available online at <https://burkeherbarium.org/waflora/>

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:

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Suggested citation:

Weinmann, F., P.F. Zika, D.E. Giblin, B. Legler. 2002+. Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Washington State. University of Washington Herbarium. <https://www.burkeherbarium.org/waflora/>. Accessed Apr 2, 2026.

Dicots:

Gentianaceae [HC, HC2] Gentian Family

**Centaurium* [HC, HC2]

centaury
(see also *Zeltnera*)

**Centaurium erythraea* Rafn [HC2, JPM2]

Danm. Holst. Fl. 2: 75-77. 1800.
common centaury, European centaury

Centaurium umbellatum Gilib. [HC], invalidly published

**Centaurium pulchellum* (Sw.) Hayek ex Hand.-Mazz., Stadlm., Janch. & Faltis [Draft FNA, HC2]

Oesterr. Bot. Z. 56: 70. 1906.
branching centaury, lesser centaury

Comastoma [HC2]

Comastoma tenellum (Rottb.) Toyok. [HC2, JPM2]

Botanical Magazine 74(874): 198. 1961.
Lapland gentian, Samiland gentian, slender gentian

Gentiana tenella Rottb. [HC]
Gentianella tenella (Rottb.) Börner
Gentianella tenella (Rottb.) Börner ssp. *tenella* [JPM]

Two specimens collected in 1987 in Okanogan County are housed at Western Washington University Herbarium.

Frasera [HC, HC2]

frasera

Frasera albicaulis Griseb. [HC, HC2]

Gen. Sp. Gent. 330. 1838.
white-stemmed frasera

var. *albicaulis* [HC, HC2]

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2(8): 67, pl. 154. 1838.
white-stemmed frasera

Frasera albicaulis Griseb. ssp. *albicaulis* [KZ99, IMF4]
Swertia albicaulis (Griseb.) Kuntze ssp. *albicaulis* [JPM]

var. *columbiana* (H. St. John) C.L. Hitchc. [HC, HC2]

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2(8): 67, pl. 154. 1838.
Columbia frasera

Frasera albicaulis Griseb. ssp. *columbiana* (St. John) Hitchc.

Near Columbia River in Klickitat and Yakima counties in WA.

Frasera fastigiata (Pursh) A. Heller [HC, HC2]

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 24(6): 312. 1897.
clustered frasera, Umpqua green-gentian

Swertia fastigiata Pursh [JPM], orthographic variant

Frasera speciosa Douglas ex Griseb. [HC, HC2]

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2(8): 66-67, pl. 153. 1838.
elkweed, giant frasera, monument plant

Swertia radiata (Kellogg) Kuntze [JPM]

var. *speciosa* [HC2]

showy frasera

***Gentiana* [HC, HC2]**

gentian

(see also *Comastoma*, *Gentianella*)

***Gentiana affinis* Griseb. [HC, HC2]**

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2(8): 56-57. 1838.

pleated gentian, prairie gentian, Rocky Mtn. gentian

Gentiana affinis Griseb. ssp. *ovata* A. Gray [JPM]

***Gentiana calycosa* Griseb. [HC, HC2]**

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2(8): 58-59, pl. 146. 1838.

explorer's gentian, mt. bog gentian

Gentiana calycosa ssp. *calycosa*

Gentiana calycosa ssp. *obtusiloba* (Rydb.) C.L. Hitchc.

Gentiana calycosa ssp. *xantha* A. Nels.

Gentiana calycosa Griseb. var. *asepala* (Maguire) C.L. Hitchc. [HC]

Gentiana calycosa Griseb. var. *calycosa* [HC]

Gentiana calycosa Griseb. var. *obtusiloba* (Rydb.) C.L. Hitchc. [HC]

***Gentiana douglasiana* Bong. [HC, HC2]**

Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint Pétersbourg (Sér. 7) 2(2): 156, pl. 6. 1832.

swamp gentian

***Gentiana glauca* Pall. [HC, HC2]**

Fl. Ross. 2: 104, pl. 93, f. 4. 1790.

glaucous gentian

Dasystephana glauca (Pall.) Rydb.

Gentianodes glauca (Pall.) Á. Löve & D. Löve

***Gentiana sceptrum* Griseb. [HC, HC2]**

Gen. Sp. Gent. 293. 1838.

King's gentian, staff gentian

***Gentianella* [HC2]**

gentian

***Gentianella amarella* (L.) Börner [HC2, IMF4]**

northern gentian

Gentiana amarella L. [HC]

ssp. *acuta* (Michx.) J.M. Gillett [WTU]

Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 44(3): 253. 1957.

northern gentian

Gentianella amarella (L.) Börner var. *acuta* (Michx.) Herder

***Swertia* [HC, HC2]**

swertia

***Swertia perennis* L. [HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 1: 226. 1753.

felwort, alpine bog swertia

Swertia perennis ssp. *obtusata* (Ledeb.) Ledeb.:Griseb.

***Zeltnera* [HC2]**

centaury

***Zeltnera exaltata* (Griseb.) G. Mans. [HC2, JPM2]**

Taxon 53(3): 731. 2004.

desert centaury, tall centaury

Centaurium exaltatum (Griseb.) W. Wight ex Piper [HC]

Zeltnera muehlenbergii (Griseb.) G. Mans. [HC2, JPM2]

Taxon 53(3): 731-732. 2004.

Muhlenberg's centaury

Centaurium muehlenbergii (Griseb.) W. Wight ex Piper

Centaurium muehlenbergii (Griseb.) W. Wight ex Piper var. *albiflorum* Suks.

Centaurium muhlenbergii (Griseb.) W. Wight ex Piper [HC], orthographic variant