

Washington Flora Checklist

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

Family: Marsileaceae

4 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superceded by new information.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 7:12am PT.
Available online at <https://burkeherbarium.org/waflora/>

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:

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Ferns and Lycophytes:

Marsileaceae [FNA2, HC, HC2] Pepperwort Family, Water-Clover Family

Marsilea [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1099. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 485, 1754.
clover-fern, pepperwort, waterclover

**Marsilea mutica* Mett. [HC2]

Annales des Sciences Naturelles; Botanique, série 4 15: 88. 1861.
Australian waterclover

Known at least from Snohomish and Pacific counties (J. Parsons, personal communication, 2016).
Specimen collected from Pacific County in 2016.

Marsilea oligospora Goodd. [FNA2, HC2]

Bot. Gaz. 33: 66. 1902.
Nelson's pepperwort, Pacific clover-fern water-clover

FNA2: "*Marsilea oligospora* recently has been re segregated from *M. vestita* (D. M. Johnson 1986), from which it differs consistently in its nodding sporocarps that lack a pronounced distal tooth and its pilose leaves and stems. Where their ranges overlap, *M. oligospora* also has longer sporocarp stalks than does *M. vestita*. Plants of this species were recently grown from spores 100 years old (D. M. Johnson 1985)."

Marsilea vestita Hook. & Grev. [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Icon. Filic. 2: plate 159. 1830.
hairy clover-fern, pepperwort, water-clover pepperwort

Marsilea fournieri C. Chr.

Marsilea mucronata A. Braun

Marsilea tenuifolia Engelm. ex A. Braun

Marsilea uncinata A. Braun

Marsilea vestita Hook. & Grev. ssp. *tenuifolia* (Engelm. ex A. Braun) D.M. Johnson

Marsilea vestita Hook. & Grev. ssp. *vestita* [JPM]

FNA2: "A number of segregate species have been named and recognized in regional floras in North America: *Marsilea mucronata* A. Braun (less hairy, found east of Rocky Mountains), *M. uncinata* (glabrous, sporocarp stalks long, distal tooth of sporocarp hooked, south central United States), *M. tenuifolia* (pinnae very narrow, central Texas), and *M. fournieri* (small plants and pinnae, southwest). The features upon which these species are based intergrade into one another. The species are therefore best treated as conspecific with *M. vestita* (D. M. Johnson 1986). Putative hybrids between *Marsilea macropoda* and this species are discussed under the former."

Pilularia [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1100. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 486, 1754.
pillwort

Pilularia americana A. Braun [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Monatsber. Königl. Preuss. Akad. Wiss. Berlin. 1863: 435. 1864.
American pillwort

Known in Washington from a single collection in eastern Washington. FNA2: "*Pilularia americana* also has been reported from Alaska. I have seen no vouchers from Alaska, nor have I seen the Oregon vouchers. Because of its grasslike appearance and subterranean sporocarps, *P. americana* is probably overlooked and more common than records indicate. The telltale circinate vernation of the leaves is the best characteristic for distinguishing it from similar plants. *Pilularia caroliniana* A. Braun, an invalid name, has been used for this species and may appear on specimens."