

Washington Flora Checklist

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

Family: Rubiaceae

17 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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 7:18am PT.
Available online at <https://burkeherbarium.org/waflora/>

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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:

Rubiaceae [HC, HC2] Madder Family

**Cruciata* [HC2]

bedstraw

**Cruciata pedemontana* (Bellardi) Ehrend. [Flora Europaea, HC2]

Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien 65: 18. 1962.

piedmont bedstraw

Galium pedemontanum (Bellardi) All.

Vallantia pedemontana Bellardi

Galium [HC, HC2]

bedstraw, cleavers

Galium aparine L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 108. 1753.

common bedstraw, common cleavers, goose-grass, sticky-willy

Galium agreste Wallr. var. *echinospermum* Wallr.

Galium aparine var. *aparine* [HC]

Galium aparine L. var. *echinospermum* (Wallr.) Farw. [HC]

Galium bifolium S. Watson [HC, HC2]

United States Geological Expedition [sic] of the Fortieth Parallel. Botany 134, pl. 14, f. 8. 1871.

twin-leaf bedstraw

Galium boreale L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 108. 1753.

northern bedstraw

**Galium divaricatum* Pourr. ex Lam. [HC2]

Encycl. [J. Lamarck & al.] 2(2): 580. 1788.

Lamarck's bedstraw

Galium kamtschaticum Steller ex Schult. & Schult. f. [HC, HC2]

Mant. 3: 186. 1827.

boreal bedstraw

Rare.

Galium mexicanum Kunth [HC2]

Nov. Gen. Sp. (quarto ed.) 3: 337?338 [1819]. 1818.

Mexican bedstraw

ssp. asperulum (A. Gray) Dempster [HC2, KZ99]

Madroño 23(7): 384. 1976.

rough bedstraw

Galium asperrimum A. Gray [HC]

Galium asperulum (A. Gray) Rydb.

Galium filipes Rydb.

Galium mexicanum Kunth var. *asperulum* (A. Gray) Dempster [JPM]

**Galium mollugo* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 107. 1753.

false baby's-breath, wild madder

**Galium odoratum* (L.) Scop. [HC2, IFBC]

Fl. Carniol., ed. 2. 1: 105. 1771.

sweet-scented bedstraw

Asperula odorata L. [HC]

Galium oreganum Britton [HC, HC2]

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 21(1): 31. 1894.
Oregon bedstraw

Galium kamtschaticum Steller ex Schult. & Schult. f. var. *oreganum* (Britton) Piper

Galium palustre L. [HC2, IFBC]

Sp. Pl. 1: 105. 1753.
common marsh bedstraw

Galium serpenticum Dempster [HC2, JPM]

Brittonia 11(3): 120-121, f. 1D, 3-4. 1959.
intermountain bedstraw

Galium multiflorum Kellogg [HC], misapplied

Galium watsonii (A. Gray) A. Heller [KZ99], misapplied

Dempster and Ehrendorfer (1965) recognized 9 subspecies in their treatment of this species. They list several of these subspecies as occurring in Washington, the majority of which are parapatric to one or more of each other. Until further research is conducted on the distinctiveness of these infraspecific taxa, we will recognize *G. serpenticum* at the species level only. Dempster and Ehrendorfer: "The name *G. serpenticum* circumscribes a rather polymorphic assemblage of diploid and some tetraploid races having many characters in common and often so tightly connected by transitional forms that further specific subdivision seems impossible....It is possible that the pattern here outlined may be the result of primary geographical and ecological differentiation which has become blurred by secondary hybridizations. The disjunct group of western montane races may represent the remnants of an older, more grayanum-like northward push along the Cascades, which has become fractionated and more or less strongly infiltrated by eastern and central races during times of dryer and more continental climate."

Galium trifidum L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 105. 1753.
small bedstraw

Galium cymosum Wiegand [HC]

Galium trifidum L. ssp. *columbianum* (Rydb.) Hultén [JPM2]

Galium trifidum L. ssp. *pacificum* (Wiegand) Piper

Galium trifidum L. ssp. *subbifolium* (Wiegand) Puff

Galium trifidum L. ssp. *trifidum* [KZ99]

Galium trifidum L. var. *pacificum* Wiegand [HC]

Galium trifidum L. var. *subbiflorum* Wiegand

Galium triflorum Michx. [HC, HC2]

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 1: 80. 1803.
fragrant bedstraw, three-flowered bedstraw

****Galium verum*** L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 107. 1753.
lady's bedstraw, yellow spring bedstraw

Kelloggia [HC, HC2]

Kelloggia

Kelloggia galioides Torr. [HC, HC2]

Bot. Wilkes Exp. 17: 332, pl. 6. 1874.
milk kelloggia

****Sherardia*** [HC, HC2]

blue fieldmadder, herb sherard, spurwort

****Sherardia arvensis*** L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 102. 1753.
blue field-madder