

# Washington Flora Checklist

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

### Family: Salviniaceae

2 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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:

David Giblin ([dgiblin@uw.edu](mailto:dgiblin@uw.edu))

Peter Zika ([zikap941@gmail.com](mailto:zikap941@gmail.com))

#### 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.

# Ferns and Lycophytes:

**Azollaceae:** see Salviniaceae

---

## Salviniaceae [FNA2, HC, HC2] Floating-Fern Family

### Synonyms:

Azollaceae [FNA2] (Mosquito Fern Family)

FNA2: "Agriculturally, *Azolla* is famous for its symbiosis with the nitrogen-fixing *Anabaena azollae* Strasburger, a cyanobacterium (blue-green alga) found at the stem apices, beneath indusia, and in cavities of the upper leaf lobes. Because the plants fix nitrogen, they are often used as a green fertilizer or mixed with livestock feed as a nutritional supplement. *Azolla pinnata* has been cultivated for many centuries in rice paddies of northern Vietnam and southeastern China, where it acts as a fertilizer after it decomposes. *Azolla* is the most frequently studied genus of ferns in the world because of its economic importance. The three North American species are naturalized in Europe and South Africa, and they have been introduced into Hawaii for horticulture and into Asia for agriculture. All species have been studied for agricultural uses in rice-producing areas. *Azolla* is usually found in stagnant or slow-moving water of ponds, lakes, marshes, swamps, and streams. Plants turn reddish when under stress, such as from poor nutrition, salinity, or high temperatures. Sporulation needs further investigation."

### *Azolla* [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Encycl. 1: 343. 1783.

mosquito-fern

### *Azolla filiculoides* Lam. [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Encycl. 1: 343. 1783.

duckweed fern, large mosquito fern

FNA2: "*Azolla filiculoides* is cold tolerant, surviving even in fragmented parts under thin ice. It usually reaches a climax population in late spring, becomes fertile, collapses, and is replaced by other more heat-tolerant aquatics such as *Lemna* spp. Hybrids between this species (male) and *A. microphylla* Kaulfuss (female), a species of Central America, South America, and the West Indies, have been reported (Do V. C. et al. 1989)."

### *Azolla microphylla* Kaulf. [HC2]

Enum. Filic. 273. 1824.

Mexican waterfern fern, mosquito fern

*Azolla mexicana* Schltldl. & Cham. ex Kunze [FNA2, HC]

KZ99 gives authorities as Schlecht. & Cham. ex K. Presl, here we follow H&C and FNA Vol. 2. FNA2: "*Azolla mexicana* is generally less cold tolerant and has a narrower environmental range than *A. caroliniana*. Both species are closely related and are similar vegetatively in culture. In the western United States, *A. mexicana* is often fertile."