

Washington Flora Checklist

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

Family: Urticaceae

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at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:

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Dicots:

Urticaceae [FNA3, HC, HC2] Nettle Family

Parietaria [FNA3, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1052. ; Gen. Pl. ed.5. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 471, 1754.
pellitory

**Parietaria judaica* L. [FNA3, HC2]

Fl. Palaest. 32. 1756.
pellitory-of-the-wall

Recently collected in King Co. (Jacobson et al. 2001). FNA3: "*Parietaria judaica* , which, in North America, is most abundant in scattered localities in California, is the only long-lived perennial species of *Parietaria* in the flora. Because of confusion in Europe over the correct name, plants in North America have been called *P. judaica* , *P. officinalis* of authors, not Linnaeus, *P. officinalis* var. *erecta* (Mertens & Koch) Weddell, and *P. officinalis* var. *diffusa* (Mertens & Koch) Weddell. For a clarification of the nomenclature and taxonomy of this complex, see C.C. Townsend (1968). *Parietaria judaica* was first reported from Louisiana as *P. diffusa* Mertens & Koch, another name commonly used on herbarium specimens (J.W. Thieret 1969)."

Parietaria pensylvanica Muhl. ex Willd. [FNA3, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 4(2): 955. 1806.
Pennsylvania pellitory

Parietaria obtusa Rydb. ex Small

Parietaria occidentalis Rydb.

Parietaria pensylvanica Muhl. ex Willd. var. *obtusa* (Rydb. ex Small) Shinnars

FNA3:Some extremes of *Parietaria pensylvanica* with short, oblong or ovate leaf blades strongly resemble *P. hespera* var. *hespera* . *Parietaria hespera* is usually more delicate and has thinner leaves with the proximal pair of lateral veins arising at the junction of blade and petiole. Leaf shape and texture tend to overlap in the two species, but in *P. pensylvanica* the proximal pair of lateral veins clearly arise above the junction of blade and petiole. The extremes of *P. pensylvanica* frequently are found where the ranges of the two species approach or overlap. Examples of these intermediates are from Gila, Mohave, and Yuma counties, Arizona. A mixed collection from Rock Springs, Gila County, Arizona, suggests that the two species occasionally grow together."

Urtica [FNA3, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 983. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 423, 1754.
nettle

**Urtica dioica* L. [FNA3, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 984. 1753.
stinging nettle

*ssp. *dioica* [FNA3, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 984. 1753.
stinging nettle

Urtica gracilis Aiton var. *latifolia* Farw.

Urtica gracilis Aiton [WTU]

Hort. Kew. 3: 341. 1789.
stinging nettle

Urtica californica Greene

Urtica dioica L. ssp. *gracilis* (Aiton) Selander

Urtica dioica L. var. *angustifolia* Schltldl.

Urtica dioica L. var. *californica* (Greene) C.L. Hitchc.

Urtica dioica L. var. *gracilis* (Aiton) R.L. Taylor & MacBryde

Urtica dioica L. var. *lyallii* (S. Watson) C.L. Hitchc.
Urtica dioica L. var. *procera* (Muhl. ex Willd.) Wedd.

ssp. *gracilis*

Hort. Kew. [W. Aiton] 3: 341. 1789.
stinging nettle

ssp. *holosericea* (Nutt.) W.A. Weber [WTU]

stinging nettle

Urtica dioica L. ssp. *holosericea* (Nutt.) Thorne
Urtica dioica L. var. *holosericea* (Nutt.) C.L. Hitchc.
Urtica dioica L. var. *occidentalis* S. Watson
Urtica gracilis Aiton var. *holosericea* (Nutt.) Jeps.
Urtica holosericea Nutt.

FNA3: "*Urtica dioica* subsp. *holosericea* is highly variable in leaf shape and degree of pubescence. The least pubescent plants appear to grade into *U. dioica* subsp. *gracilis*, and it is sometimes difficult to separate the two."

**Urtica urens* L. [FNA3, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 984. 1753.
burning nettle