Washington Flora Checklist

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

Family: Betulaceae

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and synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the 2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest except where superceded by new information.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.

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Available online at https://burkeherbarium.org/waflora/

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Dicots:

Betulaceae [FNA3, HC, HC2] Birch Family

Alnus [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4. 1754.
alder

Alnus alnobetula (Ehrh.) K. Koch [WTU]
Dendrologie 2(1): 625. 1872.
green alder, mountain alder

Alnus crispa (Aiton) Pursh ssp. *laciniata* Hultén
Alnus crispa (Aiton) Pursh ssp. *sinuata* (Regel) Hultén
Alnus sinuata (Regel) Rydb.
Alnus sitchensis (Regel) Sarg.
Alnus viridis (Chaix) DC. [WTU]
Alnus viridis (Chaix) DC. var. *sinuata* Regel
Duschekia sinuata (Regel) Pouzar

FNA3: "Alnus viridis subsp. sinuata is one of the first successional taxa to appear in the northwestern mountains following disruption of the mature vegetation. It often forms dense thickets on avalanche and talus slopes. Sitka alder differs from the two previous subspecies in its paper-thin, light or yellowish green, doubly serrate leaves. The Bella Coola used Alnus viridis subsp. sinuata medicinally although D. E. Moerman (1986) did not specify the nature of the remedies."

ssp. *fruticosa* (Rupr.) Raus [WTU]
Willdenowia 41(1): 129. 2011.

Alnus fruticosa Rupr.
Alnus viridis (Chaix) DC. ssp. *fruticosa* (Rupr.) Nyman
Alnus viridis (Chaix) DC. var. *fruticosa* (Rupr.) Regel

Not included in H&C FNA3: "This primarily subarctic Asian subspecies has long been mistaken in western North America for Alnus viridis subsp. crispa, which it closely resembles, or for subsp. sinuata (J. J. Furlow 1983b). It can be separated from the former by its larger and more coarsely toothed leaves, and from the latter by its much thicker, mostly single-toothed leaf blades."

ssp. *sinuata* (Regel) Raus
Willdenowia 41: 129. 2011.
mountain alder

Alnus viridis (Chaix) DC. ssp. *sinuata* (Regel) A. Löve & D. Löve

**Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn. [FNA3]*
Fruct. Sem. Pl. 2: 54. 1790.
Black alder, European alder

Recently (2020) collected in King County, where apparently established and escaping from a wetland restoration project.

Alnus incana (L.) Moench [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Methodus. 424. 1794.
mountain alder

ssp. *tenuifolia* (Nutt.) Breitung [FNA3, HC2]
Amer. Midl. Naturalist. 58: 25. 1957.
mountain alder

Alnus incana (L.) Moench var. *occidentalis* (Dippel) C.L. Hitchc. [HC]
Alnus incana (L.) Moench var. *virescens* S. Watson
Alnus occidentalis Dippel

Alnus ×*purpusii* Callier
Alnus rugosa (Du Roi) Spreng. var. *occidentalis* (Dippel) C.L. Hitchc.
Alnus tenuifolia Nutt. [VPBC1]
Alnus tenuifolia Nutt. var. *occidentalis* (Dippel) Collier [VPBC, VPBC]

FNA3: "Alnus incana subsp. tenuifolia is somewhat more treelike than the eastern A . incana subsp. rugosa , from which it also differs in leaf shape, leaf margins, and other characters. It is a frequent component of streamside vegetation throughout the Rocky Mountains and other mountainous parts of western North America. Native Americans used alnus incana subsp. tenuifolia medicinally for pains in the lungs or hips, for scrofula, as a laxative, and as a diuretic for gonorrhea (D. E. Moerman 1986)."

Alnus rhombifolia Nutt. [FNA3, HC, HC2]
N. Amer. Sylv. 1: 49. 1842.
white alder

Alnus rhombifolia Nutt. var. *bernardina* Munz & I.M. Johnst.

FNA3: "Alnus rhombifolia is the common alder throughout the dry Mediterranean climatic zone of coastal western United States. Mexican populations are not known, but because A . rhombifolia has been collected as far south as San Diego, California, it should be expected in adjacent Baja California. Native Americans used various parts of Alnus rhombifolia medicinally for diarrhea, consumption, and burns, as a blood purifier, an emetic, and a wash for babies with skin diseases, and to facilitate childbirth (D. E. Moerman 1986)."

Alnus rubra Bong. [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Mém. Acad. Sci. St.-Pétersbourg. Sér. 6, Sci. Math. 2: 162. 1833.
red alder

Alnus oregona Nutt.
Alnus oregona Nutt. var. *pinnatisecta* Starker
Alnus rubra Bong. var. *pinnatisecta* Starker

FNA3: "Alnus rubra is the largest alder in North America north of Mexico; it often forms extensive stands along streams and on low-lying flood plains in the Pacific Northwest. The strongly revolute margins of its leaf blades make it easily distinguished from all of the other alders in the flora. It is an important commercial tree; the wood is used to make inexpensive furniture, small wooden items, and paper pulp. Native Americans used various parts of plants of Alnus rubra medicinally as a purgative, an emetic, for aching bones, headaches, coughs, biliousness, stomach problems, scrofula sores, tuberculosis, asthma, and eczema, and as a general panacea (D. E. Moerman 1986)."

Betula [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Sp. Pl. 2: 982. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 433, 1754.
birch

Betula glandulosa Michx. [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2: 180. 1803.
resin birch, swamp birch
(see also *Betula pumila*)

Betula crenata Rydb. ex B.T. Butler
Betula glandulosa Michx. var. *glandulosa* [HC]

FNA3: "Betula glandulosa is the characteristic dwarf birch of upland habitats throughout much of the mountainous west, occurring as well in dry open areas across the north. Where their ranges meet, B . glandulosa intergrades with both B . pumila Linnaeus and B . nana Linnaeus subsp. exilis (Sukaczev) Hultén, creating a confusing complex of intermediate forms."

Betula occidentalis Hook. [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2: 155. 1838.
red birch, river birch, water birch

Betula beeniana A. Nelson
Betula fontinalis Sarg.
Betula fontinalis Sarg. var. *inopina* (Jeps.) Jeps.
Betula microphylla Bunge var. *fontinalis* (Sarg.) M.E. Jones

Betula occidentalis Hook. var. *fecunda* Fernald
Betula occidentalis Hook. var. *inopina* (Jeps.) C.L. Hitchc. [HC]
Betula occidentalis Hook. var. *occidentalis* [HC]
Betula papyrifera Marshall ssp. *occidentalis* (Hook.) Hultén
Betula papyrifera Marshall var. *occidentalis* (Hook.) Sarg.

FNA3: "Betula occidentalis is a common, streamside, shrubby birch throughout much of the Rocky Mountains, extending eastward to northwestern Ontario. It has been widely known by the later name B . fontinalis because of questions concerning the legitimacy of Hooker\'s epithet (J. R. Dugle 1966). Recent changes to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (W. Greuter et al. 1994) have clarified the situation, however, and the consensus now is that the earlier name is correct. E. Hultén (1968) believed that the species in Alaska that has been called B . occidentalis consists of an extensive hybrid swarm between B . neoalaskana (as B . resinifera) and B . glandulosa . The studies of J. R. Dugle (1966) do not support a hybrid origin of B . occidentalis in other parts of its range. Additional study will be needed to resolve this problem, both in Alaska and southward."

Betula papyrifera Marshall [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Arbust. Amer. 19. 1785.
canoe birch, paper birch, western paper birch, white birch
(see also *Betula utahensis*)

Betula alba L. var. *commutata* Regel
Betula montanensis
Betula papyrifera Marshall var. *commutata* (Regel) Fernald [HC]

FNA3: "Variants having more or less close, dark brown bark (B . papyrifera var. commutata) occur locally throughout the wide range of this species; this characteristic appears to be largely environmentally caused. Betula × sandbergii Britton is a fairly common hybrid, occurring where the ranges of the parents (B . papyrifera Marshall and B . pumila Linnaeus) come into contact. In most vegetative features it is intermediate between the parental conditions (K. E. Clausen 1963; C. O. Rosendahl 1928)."

**Betula pendula* Roth [FNA3, HC2]
Tent. Fl. Germ. 1: 405. 1788.
European weeping birch

Betula verrucosa Ehrh.

FNA3: "The Eurasian weeping birch (Betula pendula) is extensively cultivated throughout the temperate range of the flora, and it has been known to persist or to become locally naturalized in several areas, particularly in the Northeast. In vegetative features it resembles B . populifolia Marshall, to which it is closely allied; it can easily be distinguished from the latter by its peeling bark, as well as by its mostly pubescent leaves with somewhat shorter, acuminate apices."

**Betula populifolia* Marshall [FNA3, HC2]
Arbust. Amer. 19. 1785.
gray birch

**Betula pubescens* Ehrh. [FNA3, HC2]
Beitr. Naturk. 5: 160. 1790.
downy birch

*ssp. *pubescens* [FNA3, HC2]

Betula pumila L. [FNA3, HC2]
Mant. Pl. 124. 1767.
bog birch, swamp birch

Betula borealis Spach
Betula glandulifera (Regel) B.T. Butler
Betula glandulosa Michx. var. *glandulifera* (Regel) Gleason
Betula glandulosa Michx. var. *hallii* (Howell) C.L. Hitchc. [HC, VPBC]
Betula hallii Howell
Betula nana L. var. *glandulifera* (Regel) B. Boivin
Betula pubescens Ehrh. ssp. *borealis* (Spach) A. Löve & D. Löve
Betula pumila L. f. *hallii* (Howell) Brayshaw [VPBC, VPBC]

Betula pumila L. var. *glabra* Regel
Betula pumila L. var. *glandulifera* Regel [VPBC1, KZ99, FNA3]
Betula pumila L. var. *renifolia* Fernald

FNA3: "Betula pumila is sometimes treated (in part) as a variety of B . glandulosa Michaux, to which it is related at a subgeneric or sectional level. On the basis of morphology, however, it forms a cohesive and distinct entity (J. J. Furlow 1984). The two main varieties into which B . pumila is often divided (a more southern B . pumila var. pumila , with mostly pubescent, glandless leaves, and a more northern B . pumila var. glandulifera , with less pubescent, gland-bearing leaves) may represent geographic races; these are not well marked, however, and they do not hold up well when the complex is examined as a whole."

Betula ×utahensis Britton [FNA3, HC2]
Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 31(3): 165. 1904.
hybrid birch

Betula andrewsii A. Nelson
Betula ×commixta Sarg.
Betula papyrifera Marshall var. *subcordata* (Rydb.) Sarg. [HC]
Betula piperi Britton [HC]

FNA3: "Betula × utahensis Britton (= B . occidentalis Hooker × B . papyrifera Marshall) is a common hybrid marked by intermediate characteristics."

Corylus [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Sp. Pl. 2: 998. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 433, 1754.
filbert, hazelnut

**Corylus avellana* L. [FNA3, HC2]
Sp. Pl. 2: 998. 1753.
common filbert, European hazelnut

FNA3: "Corylus avellana is widely grown as an ornamental shrub in temperate North America, and it sometimes persists following cultivation, although it seldom becomes established. Corylus avellana is similar to C . americana in habit, leaves, and fruit characteristics, although it becomes much larger. If fruits are present, the two species can be distinguished by the involucre, which is shorter than the nut in C . avellana . The best technical character for separating these species in the absence of fruits is the length of the peduncles of the staminate catkins (which are formed during the summer prior to the season of blooming)."

Corylus cornuta Marshall [FNA3, HC, HC2]
Arbust. Amer. 37. 1785.
beaked hazelnut

ssp. *californica* (A. DC.) A.E. Murray [FNA3, HC2]
Kalmia. 12: 19. 1982.
California hazelnut

Corylus californica (A. DC.) Rose
Corylus cornuta Marshall var. *californica* (A. DC.) Sharp
Corylus cornuta Marshall var. *glandulosa* B. Boivin
Corylus rostrata Aiton var. *californica* A. DC.
Corylus rostrata Aiton var. *tracyi* Jeps.

FNA3: "The California hazel (Corylus cornuta subsp. californica) is most often treated as a variey of the northern C . cornuta . The two may not be very closely related, however, differing conspicuously in habit, leaf shape, pubescence, the presence of glandular hairs, form and size of the involucre, habitat, phytogeography, and various other features (J. N. Rose 1895; J. S. Drumke 1965). A thorough taxonomic study of this group should be undertaken."

ssp. *cornuta* [FNA3, HC2]
beaked hazelnut

Corylus cornuta Marshall var. *cornuta* [IFBC]
Corylus cornuta Marshall var. *megaphylla* Vict. & J. Rouss.
Corylus rostrata Aiton

FNA3: "Like Corylus americana Walter, the beaked hazel (C . cornuta subsp. cornuta) is a weedy shrub and is sometimes considered a pest in carefully managed northern forests. The fruits are similar to those of C . americana , except that the surrounding bracts are connate into a long, narrow, tubular beak. Vegetative individuals of C . cornuta subsp. cornuta can be distinguished from C . americana by the absence of glandular hairs on the petioles and young twigs."