Washington Flora Checklist

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

Family: Ceratophyllaceae

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and synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the 2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest except where superceded by new information.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 August 28th, 2025 at 1:54pm PT.
Available online at https://burkeherbarium.org/waflora/

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:
David Giblin (dgiblin@uw.edu)
Peter Zika (zikap941@gmail.com)

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Dicots:

Ceratophyllaceae [FNA3, HC, HC2] Hornwort Family

FNA3: "Useful in identification of species of Ceratophyllum are leaf-forking characteristics. Leaves with no forking are "0-order"; they consist only of a primary segment. Those forking once are "1st-order"; their ultimate segments are secondary. Those in which at least one secondary segment forks are "2d-order"; their ultimate segments are tertiary. Those in which at least one tertiary segment forks are "3d-order"; their ultimate segments are quaternary. Those in which at least one quaternary segment forks are "4th order.""

Ceratophyllum [FNA3, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 992. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 428, 1754.
coontail, hornwort

Ceratophyllum demersum L. [FNA3, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 992. 1753.
coon's-tail

Ceratophyllum apiculatum Cham.

FNA3: "Specimens of Ceratophyllum demersum with short basal spines or tubercles have been misidentified as C . submersum Linnaeus, a species not known in the New World despite reports to the contrary. Ceratophyllum demersum is the most common species of Ceratophyllum in North America and also the least likely to be found with fruit, its reproduction being primarily asexual. Predominantly low leaf order is, therefore, the most reliable means of identifying this species. Noted for its prolific growth, Ceratophyllum demersum occasionally has attained status as a serious weed."

Ceratophyllum echinatum A. Gray [FNA3, HC2]

Ann. Lyceum Nat. Hist. New York. 4: 49. 1837.
spineless hornwort

Ceratophyllum demersum L. var. *echinatum* (A. Gray) A. Gray
Ceratophyllum submersum L. var. *echinatum* (A. Gray) Wilmot-Dear

FNA3: "Principally an eastern North American species--and the only species of its genus endemic to North America-- Ceratophyllum echinatum is disjunct in the Pacific Northwest as a result of repeated Pleistocene glaciation. The habitats of C . echinatum are typically more acidic (avg. pH 6.6) than those of C . demersum (avg. pH 7.4). The two species only rarely coexist. Ceratophyllum echinatum also thrives in cooler, clearer, and more oligotrophic water than C . demersum and often is found in more ephemeral sites, such as shrub swamps (e.g., with Cephalanthus occidentalis) and beaver ponds. This species, relatively uncommon, is fast disappearing from much of its range because of habitat alteration or destruction and the introduction of nonindigenous species; steps should be taken to secure its conservation. Unlike Ceratophyllum demersum , C . echinatum does not attain status as a serious weed."