

Washington Flora Checklist

A checklist of the Vascular Plants of Washington State

Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

Family: Nymphaeaceae

3 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superceded by new information.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 January 31st, 2026 at 6:30am PT.

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

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Dicots:

Nymphaeaceae [FNA3, HC, HC2] Water-Lily Family

***Nuphar* [FNA3, HC, HC2]**

Fl. Graec. Prodr. 1: 361. 1809.
cow-lily, yellow water-lily

***Nuphar polysepala* Engelm. [FNA3, HC2]**

Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis. 2: 282. 1865.
yellow pond lily, spatterdock

Nuphar lutea (L.) Sm., misapplied

Nuphar lutea (L.) Sm. ssp. *polysepala* (Endelmann) E.O. Beal [KZ99]

Nuphar polysepalum Engelm. [HC]

FNA3: Plants intermediate between *Nuphar polysepala* and *N. variegata* occur in eastern British Columbia."

***Nymphaea* [FNA3, HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 1: 510. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 227, 1754.
water-lily

****Nymphaea odorata* Aiton [FNA3, HC, HC2]**

Hort. Kew. 2: 227. 1789.
American water-lily, fragrant water-lily

***Nymphaea tetragona* Georgi [FNA3, HC, HC2]**

Bemerk. Reise Russ. Reich. 1: 220. 1775.
pygmy water-lily

Possibly extirpated. FNA3: "Although broadly distributed in the northwest part of the flora, *Nymphaea tetragona* is apparently not common over the Canadian portion of its range. It was collected once in extreme northwestern Washington but is believed to be extirpated there. True *N. tetragona* is absent from northeastern North America and, now, from the conterminous United States, where this name has usually been applied to what is here segregated as *N. leibergii*. In size and shape of leaves and flowers the two taxa are very similar. They differ in the leaf mottling often present in developing leaves of *N. tetragona* but absent in *N. leibergii*; the distinctly tetragonal appearance of the receptacle in *N. tetragona*; and in the longer carpillary appendages, the presence usually of more stamens, and purple-colored stamens and pistils in *N. tetragona*. Only in living plants is it apparent that leaves of *N. leibergii* are thicker with impressed veins abaxially compared to the relatively thin leaves with raised veins in *N. tetragona*. Although distinctions in sepal and petal apices (often acute in *N. tetragona* and often rounded in *N. leibergii*) were the basis for the establishment of *Castalia leibergii*, the characters are variable in both taxa and thus of limited utility in distinguishing them."