

Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist

A checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest
Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

Family: Acoraceae

2 terminal taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties).

The Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist aims to be a complete list of the native and naturalized vascular plants of the Pacific Northwest, 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superceded by new information.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 Flora of the PNW Checklist database on February 15th, 2026 at 2:30pm PT.

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

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:

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Monocots:

Acoraceae [FNA22, HC2] Sweet Flag Family

FNA22: "Acorus historically was recognized as an aberrant genus within Araceae, but much evidence supports its treatment as a separate family and the removal of this family from Arales (M. H. Grayum 1987). Other than the absence of a close association with Arales, the phylogenetic affinities of Acoraceae remain unclear. Evidence based on DNA sequences fails to show any close relationships between Acorus and other genera, and instead supports Acorus as the oldest extant lineage of monocotyledons (M. R. Duvall et al. 1993). The removal of Acorus from Araceae is supported by the absence of a spathe and the unique vasculature of the structure traditionally interpreted as a spathe (T. S. Ray 1987). The structure that has been called a spathe in Acorus is not morphologically equivalent to the spathe of Araceae; instead it is interpreted as the distal part of the sympodial leaf. The proximal part of the sympodial leaf is adnate to the peduncle, forming a 3-angled axis that bears the inflorescence."

***Acorus* [FNA22, HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 1: 324. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5; 151, 1754.
sweet flag

***Acorus americanus* (Raf.) Raf. [FNA22, HC2]**

New Flora and Botany of North America. 1: 57. 1836.
American sweetflag, several-vein sweetflag

Acorus calamus L. var. *americanus* Raf.
Acorus calamus L. var. *americanus* H. Wulff

Known only from a single, historic collection with no habitat data from Spokane Co. Additional specimens are needed to demonstrate that this species is established in the flora.

Taxonomy follows FNA, distinguishing North American and Eurasian taxa at the species level. They differ in their chromosome level, fertility, and leaf venation.

****Acorus calamus* L. [FNA22, HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 1: 324. 1753.
sweet flag