

Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist

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

Family: Euphorbiaceae

30 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superceded by new information.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 2:31pm PT.

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

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Dicots:

Euphorbiaceae [HC, HC2] Spurge Family

**Acalypha* [HC2]

- **Acalypha australis* L. [HC2]
Asian copperleaf

Croton [HC2]

croton

Eremocarpus [HC]

Croton setigerus Hook.

Fl. Bor.-Amer. (Hooker) 2(9): 141. (as *setigerum*) 1838.
doveweed, turkey mullein, fish poison

Croton setiger Hook. [HC2, JPM2], orthographic variant
Eremocarpus setigerus (Hook.) Benth. [HC]

Euphorbia [HC, HC2]

euphorbia, sandmat, spurge

- **Euphorbia agraria* M. Bieb. [HC2]
Fl. Taur.-Caucas. 1: 375. 1808.
urban spurge

**Euphorbia amygdaloides* L. [HC2]

Known in Washington from a single collection in a garden setting.

Euphorbia brachycera Engelm. [HC2]

horned spurge

**Euphorbia characias* L. [HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 463. 1753.
Mediterranean spurge

All specimens in Washington collected either in or next to cultivated settings. More evidence needed to confirm that this species is established in the flora.

Euphorbia crenulata Engelm. [HC, HC2]

Chinese caps

**Euphorbia cyparissias* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 461. 1753.
cypress spurge

**Euphorbia davidii* Subils [HC2]

toothed spurge

**Euphorbia dulcis* L. [HC2]

**Euphorbia epithymoides* L. [HC2]

There is little detailed evidence among the three collections of this species in Washington regarding the setting from which they were collected. More information is needed to confirm that this species is established in the flora.

**Euphorbia exigua* L. [HC2]

Euphorbia glyptosperma Engelm. [HC, HC2]

Rep. U.S. Mex. Bound. 2(1): 187. 1859.
rib seed sandmat, corrugate seeded spurge, ridge seeded spurge

Chamaesyce glyptosperma (Engelm.) Small [KZ99, JPM]

**Euphorbia helioscopia* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 459. 1753.

summer spurge, sun spurge, wart spurge, wartweed

**Euphorbia lathyris* L. [HC2, IFBC]

Sp. Pl. 1: 457. 1753.

mole plant, gopher plant, caper spurge

Euphorbia lathyrus L. [HC], orthographic variant

Misspelled *Euphorbia lathyrus* in H&C.

**Euphorbia maculata* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 455. 1753.

sandmat, milk spurge, spotted spurge

Chamaesyce maculata (L.) Small [KZ99]

Euphorbia supina Raf. [HC]

Euphorbia missurica Raf. [HC2]

prairie sandmat

**Euphorbia myrsinites* L. [HC2]

Sp. Pl. 461. 1753.

broad leaved glaucous spurge, myrtle spurge

**Euphorbia nutans* Lag. [HC2]

nodding spurge, upright spurge

**Euphorbia oblongata* Griseb. [HC2, Stace 1997]

Spic. Fl. Rumel. 1: 136. 1843.

balkan spurge, egg-leaf spurge

**Euphorbia peplus* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 456. 1753.

petty spurge

**Euphorbia platyphyllos* L. [HC2, Stace 1997]

Sp. Pl. 1: 460. 1753.

broad leaved spurge

Recently collected in King Co. - perhaps in mounting backlog at WTU. No specimen observed as of 2024, so still not verified in the flora.

**Euphorbia prostrata* Aiton

**Euphorbia segetalis* L. [HC2]

Known in Washington from a single collection in a garden setting.

**Euphorbia serpens* Kunth [HC2]

matted sandmat, round-leaf sandmat

Euphorbia serpyllifolia Pers. [FNA, HC2]

Syn. Pl. 2: 14. 1806.

thyme-leaved spurge

Euphorbia serpyllifolia Pers. [HC], orthographic variant

ssp. *serpyllifolia* [FNA, HC2]

Chamaesyce serpyllifolia (Pers.) Small ssp. *serpyllifolia* [KZ99, JPM]

Euphorbia serpyllifolia Pers. ssp. *serpyllifolia*, orthographic variant

**Euphorbia serrulata* Thuill. [HC2, Stace 1997]

Fl. Env. Paris (ed. 2) 2: 237. 1799.

upright spurge

Euphorbia stricta L.

***Euphorbia spathulata* Lam. [HC, HC2]**

Encycl. 2(2): 428. 1788.

reticulate seeded spurge, spatulate leaved spurge, warty spurge

****Euphorbia virgata* Waldst. & Kit. [FNA, HC2]**

Descr. Icon. Pl. Hung. 2: 176?177, pl. 162. 1804.

wolf's milk, leafy spurge

Euphorbia esula L. [HC], misapplied

Draft FNA: "Euphorbia virgata is native to Europe and temperate Asia. The species is here treated as the widespread, weedy, "leafy spurge"• that is a pest plant across much of the northern flora area. Euphorbia virgata is similarly widespread and weedy across much of its native range in Europe and Asia, whereas the true E. esula is much more restricted in range and is never as pervasive and weedy as E. virgata in either its native range or in the flora area."

****Mercurialis* [HC2]**

****Mercurialis annua* L. [HC2]**

annual mercury

This species is known from a single collection in Seattle from a cultivated setting. It is not considered part of the naturalized flora.