

# Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist

## A checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest

Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

### Family: Nymphaeaceae

6 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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/>

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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* (Endemann) E.O. Beal [KZ99]

*Nuphar polysepalum* Engelm. [HC]

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

#### *Nuphar variegata* Durand [FNA3, HC2]

Rep. (Annual) Regents Univ. State New York State Cab. Nat. Hist. 19: 73. 1866.

*Nuphar variegatum* Engelm. [HC], orthographic variant

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

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

#### \**Nymphaea alba* L. [HC2]

#### *Nymphaea leibergii* Morong [FNA3, HC2]

Bot. Gaz. 13: 124, in note. 1888.

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

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

#### \*ssp. *odorata* [FNA3, HC2]

*Castalia lekophylla* Small

*Nymphaea odorata* Aiton f. *rubra* (E. Guillon) Conard

*Nymphaea odorata* Aiton var. *gigantea* Tricker

*Nymphaea odorata* Aiton var. *godfreyi* D.B. Ward

*Nymphaea odorata* Aiton var. *odorata*

*Nymphaea odorata* Aiton var. *rosea* Pursh

#### *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 carpellary 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."