

# Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist

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

## Family: Polypodiaceae

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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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 April 4th, 2026 at 3:46pm PT.

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

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:

David Giblin ([dgiblin@uw.edu](mailto:dgiblin@uw.edu))

Peter Zika ([zikap941@gmail.com](mailto:zikap941@gmail.com))

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# Ferns and Lycophytes:

**Grammitidaceae:** see Polypodiaceae

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## Polypodiaceae [FNA2, HC, HC2] Polypody Fern Family

### Synonyms:

Grammitidaceae [FNA2]

### *Polypodium* Sw. [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1082. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 485, 1754.  
polypody

### *Polypodium amorphum* Suksd. [FNA2, HC2]

Werdenda. 1: 16. 1927.  
irregular polypody

*Polypodium montense* F.A. Lang [HC]

FNA2: "The diploid *Polypodium amorphum* is one of the progenitors of allotetraploid *P. hesperium*, and these two species are occasionally sympatric. Although *P. amorphum* can be mistaken for *P. hesperium*, consistent differences exist for separating these two species (see comments under *P. hesperium*). Hybridization between *P. amorphum* and *P. hesperium* results in triploid individuals with misshapen spores (F. A. Lang 1971)."

### *Polypodium calirhiza* S.A. Whitmore & A.R. Sm. [FNA2, HC2]

Madroño. 38: 235. 1991.  
nested polypody

### *Polypodium glycyrrhiza* D.C. Eaton [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Amer. J. Sci. Arts. ser. 2, 22: 138. 1856.  
licorice fern

*Polypodium aleuticum* A.E. Bobrov

*Polypodium falcatum* Kellogg

*Polypodium occidentale* (Hook.) Maxon

*Polypodium vulgare* L., misapplied

*Polypodium vulgare* L. var. *falcatum* (Kellogg) H. Christ

*Polypodium vulgare* L. var. *occidentale* Hook. [Peck]

FNA2: "*Polypodium glycyrrhiza* hybridizes with *P. calirhiza* and with *P. hesperium* to produce sterile triploids with misshapen spores. *Polypodium glycyrrhiza* was involved in the origin of both of these allotetraploid species, and some individuals can be difficult to identify. Free versus anastomosing venation distinguishes this species from *P. calirhiza*; the presence of adaxial hairs on the rachis separates it from *P. hesperium*. An additional character for distinguishing these taxa is spore length, which is less than 58 Åµm in diploid *P. glycyrrhiza* and more than 58 Åµm in the two tetraploid species."

### *Polypodium hesperium* Maxon [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 13: 200. 1900.  
western polypody

*Polypodium prolongilobum* Clute

*Polypodium vulgare* L. var. *columbianum* Gilbert [Peck]

*Polypodium vulgare* L. var. *hesperium* (Maxon) A. Nelson & J.F. Macbr.

FNA2: "Using morphologic and chromosomal data, F. A. Lang (1971) proposed that *Polypodium hesperium* originated through allotetraploidy involving *P. glycyrrhiza* and *P. amorphum*, a hypothesis recently supported by electrophoretic studies (C. H. Haufler, M. D. Windham, and E. W. Rabe,

unpublished). Variations in spore surface morphology and banding patterns observed in isozyme studies indicate that *P. hesperium* may have originated more than once from different individuals of the same species. Some collections of *P. hesperium* can be mistaken for *P. glycyrrhiza*, but the latter species is easily distinguished by its pubescent rachises, linear blade scales, and smaller spores (less than 58  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Although *P. amorphum* has sporangiasters and *P. hesperium* lacks them, misshapen sporangia in *P. hesperium* can mimic these distinctive soral structures. Therefore, it is often necessary to use a combination of soral, stem scale, and blade scale features (discussed in the key) to separate *P. hesperium* from *P. amorphum*. Hybridization occurs between *P. hesperium* and each of its progenitor diploids to form triploid individuals with misshapen spores (F. A. Lang 1971). Rare, sterile, tetraploid hybrids with *P. saximontanum* have also been detected (M. D. Windham, unpublished)."

***Polypodium saximontanum*** Windham [FNA2, HC2]

Contr. Univ. Michigan Herb. 19: 47. 1993.

Rocky Mountain polypody

***Polypodium scouleri*** Hook. & Grev. [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Icon. Filic. 1: 56. 1829.

leathery polypody, Scouler's polypody

FNA2: "The distinctive *Polypodium scouleri* has occasionally been assigned to the genus *Goniophlebium* because of its anastomosing venation and conspicuous areoles. Its venation pattern can be quite variable, however, and cannot be used as the sole feature distinguishing *P. scouleri* from *P. californicum*. Combining venation characteristics with others provided in the key distinguishes it clearly from its congeners in *Polypodium*. Some evidence suggests that *P. scouleri* hybridizes with *P. californicum* (S. A. Whitmore, unpubl.). I. Manton (1951) reported diploid and triploid cytotypes for *P. scouleri*, and variation in spore size suggests that the species may also include tetraploid populations."