

Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist

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

Family: Rubiaceae

21 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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 June 4th, 2026 at 10:26am PT.

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

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Dicots:

Rubiaceae [HC, HC2] Madder Family

**Crucianella* [HC2]

crosswort, crucianella

**Crucianella angustifolia* L. [HC2]

narrowleaf crosswort

**Cruciata* [HC2]

bedstraw

**Cruciata pedemontana* (Bellardi) Ehrend. [Flora Europaea, HC2]

Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien 65: 18. 1962.

piedmont bedstraw

Galium pedemontanum (Bellardi) All.

Vallantia pedemontana Bellardi

Galium [HC, HC2]

bedstraw, cleavers

Galium aparine L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 108. 1753.

common bedstraw, common cleavers, goose-grass, sticky-willy

Galium agreste Wallr. var. *echinospermum* Wallr.

Galium aparine var. *aparine* [HC]

Galium aparine L. var. *echinospermum* (Wallr.) Farw. [HC]

Galium bifolium S. Watson [HC, HC2]

United States Geological Expedition [sic] of the Fortieth Parallel. Botany 134, pl. 14, f. 8. 1871.

twin-leaf bedstraw

Galium boreale L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 108. 1753.

northern bedstraw

**Galium divaricatum* Pourr. ex Lam. [HC2]

Encycl. [J. Lamarck & al.] 2(2): 580. 1788.

Lamarck's bedstraw

**Galium humifusum* M. Bieb. [HC2, Stace 1997]

Fl. Taur.-Caucas. 1: 104-105. 1808.

creeping bedstraw, spreading bedstraw

Asperula humifusa (M. Bieb.) Besser [HC]

The only two specimens of this species at WTU are Suksdorf collections dating to 1925. That the species has not been collected again in North America in nearly 100 years (according to PLANTS database WA is the only state in which this species occurs), this species is considered excluded until specimens are located indicating that it is established in the flora.

Galium kamtschaticum Steller ex Schult. & Schult. f. [HC, HC2]

Mant. 3: 186. 1827.

boreal bedstraw

Rare.

Galium mexicanum Kunth [HC2]

Nov. Gen. Sp. (quarto ed.) 3: 337?338 [1819]. 1818.

Mexican bedstraw

ssp. *asperulum* (A. Gray) Dempster [HC2, KZ99]

Madroño 23(7): 384. 1976.

rough bedstraw

Galium asperrimum A. Gray [HC]

Galium asperulum (A. Gray) Rydb.

Galium filipes Rydb.

Galium mexicanum Kunth var. *asperulum* (A. Gray) Dempster [JPM]

**Galium mollugo* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 107. 1753.

false baby's-breath, wild madder

**Galium murale* (L.) All. [HC2]

**Galium odoratum* (L.) Scop. [HC2, IFBC]

Fl. Carniol., ed. 2. 1: 105. 1771.

sweet-scented bedstraw

Asperula odorata L. [HC]

Galium oreganum Britton [HC, HC2]

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 21(1): 31. 1894.

Oregon bedstraw

Galium kamtschaticum Steller ex Schult. & Schult. f. var. *oreganum* (Britton) Piper

Galium palustre L. [HC2, IFBC]

Sp. Pl. 1: 105. 1753.

common marsh bedstraw

Galium serpenticum Dempster [HC2, JPM]

Brittonia 11(3): 120-121, f. 1D, 3-4. 1959.

intermountain bedstraw

Galium multiflorum Kellogg [HC], misapplied

Galium watsonii (A. Gray) A. Heller [KZ99], misapplied

Dempster and Ehrendorfer (1965) recognized 9 subspecies in their treatment of this species. They list several of these subspecies as occurring in Washington, the majority of which are parapatric to one or more of each other. Until further research is conducted on the distinctiveness of these infraspecific taxa, we will recognize *G. serpenticum* at the species level only. Dempster and Ehrendorfer: "The name *G. serpenticum* circumscribes a rather polymorphic assemblage of diploid and some tetraploid races having many characters in common and often so tightly connected by transitional forms that further specific subdivision seems impossible....It is possible that the pattern here outlined may be the result of primary geographical and ecological differentiation which has become blurred by secondary hybridizations. The disjunct group of western montane races may represent the remnants of an older, more grayanum-like northward push along the Cascades, which has become fractionated and more or less strongly infiltrated by eastern and central races during times of dryer and more continental climate."

**Galium tricornutum* Dandy [HC2, JPM]

Watsonia 4(1): 47-48. 1957.

rough-fruit corn bedstraw

Galium tricornutum Dandy [HC], orthographic variant

From JPM it appears that this species is endemic to CA. If occurring in WA it should be considered introduced. Howell made a collection of this species in 1882 near The Dalles in Oregon, and Suksdorf made a collection in the Portland area in 1916. Without evidence to the contrary, these populations are considered introduced to these localities. Creso includes *G. tricornutum* in her 1984 flora of western Washington and describes it as rare in waste places and fields. In the absence of specimens indicating its presence here in WA, we are considering *G. tricornutum* to be excluded from the flora at this time.

Galium trifidum L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 105. 1753.

small bedstraw

Galium cymosum Wiegand [HC]
Galium trifidum L. ssp. *columbianum* (Rydb.) Hultén [JPM2]
Galium trifidum L. ssp. *pacificum* (Wiegand) Piper
Galium trifidum L. ssp. *subbifolium* (Wiegand) Puff
Galium trifidum L. ssp. *trifidum* [KZ99]
Galium trifidum L. var. *pacificum* Wiegand [HC]
Galium trifidum L. var. *subbiflorum* Wiegand

Galium triflorum Michx. [HC, HC2]

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 1: 80. 1803.
fragrant bedstraw, three-flowered bedstraw

**Galium verum* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 107. 1753.
lady's bedstraw, yellow spring bedstraw

Kelloggia [HC, HC2]

Kelloggia

Kelloggia galioides Torr. [HC, HC2]

Bot. Wilkes Exp. 17: 332, pl. 6. 1874.
milk kelloggia

**Sherardia* [HC, HC2]

blue fieldmadder, herb sherard, spurwort

**Sherardia arvensis* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 102. 1753.
blue field-madder