Washington Flora Checklist

A checklist of the Vascular Plants of Washington State
Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

Family: Iridaceae

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

The Washington Flora Checklist aims to be a complete list of the native and naturalized vascular plants of Washington State, 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and synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the 2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest except where superceded by new information.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 Washington Flora Checklist database on December 3rd, 2025 at 5:09am PT.
Available online at https://burkeherbarium.org/waflora/

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Monocots:

Iridaceae [FNA26, HC, HC2] Iris Family

Crocosmia [FNA26, HC2]
Fl. Serres Jard. Eur. 7: 161. 1851.
montbretia

Crocosmia ×crocosmiiflora (Lemoine) N.E. Br. [FNA26, HC2]
Trans. Roy. Soc. South Africa. 20: 264. 1932 (as crocosmiflora). 1932.
montbretia

Recently (2007) collected in Grays Harbor Co.

Crocus [HC2]

*ssp. *vernus* [HC2]
spring crocus

TROPICOS shows Hill as the author of this combination but provides no publication information. IPNI lists several authors for this combination, however Hill is not one of them. Recently collected in San Juan Co.

Iris [FNA26, HC, HC2]
Sp. Pl. 1: 38. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 24. 1754.
flag, fleur-de-lis, iris

Belamcanda [FNA26]

**Iris foetidissima* L. [HC2]
Sp. Pl. 1: 38-40. 1753.
stinking iris

Recently collected in King Co.

**Iris germanica* L. [FNA26, HC2]
Sp. Pl. 1: 38. 1753.
bearded iris, German iris

FNA points out that Iris germanica was derived from a natural hybrid between Iris pallida Lam. and Iris variegata L. In 1889 additional Mediterranean species were hybridized with I. germanica in gardens (Wister 1927; Henderson 1992), and those crosses have been called Iris ×conglomerata N. C. Hend. (Henderson 1993). It is possible the wild plants in Cowlitz Co. are I. ×conglomerata, not true I. germanica.

Iris missouriensis Nutt. [FNA26, HC, HC2]
J. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia. 7: 58. 1834.
western blue flag, Rocky Mountain iris

FNA26: "The ecological range of Iris missouriensis is probably more varied than that of any other North American species of the genus, extending from almost sea level in southern California to 3000 m in Montana and Wyoming. There is correspondingly wide variation in a number of characters, which has caused much confusion as to taxonomic circumscription. Homer Metcalf (pers. comm.) made a detailed study of this species. The basic requirement for its success seems to be an extremely wet area before flowering and then almost desertlike conditions for the rest of the summer. In large populations, sometimes covering hundreds of acres, Iris missouriensis may be found with either simple or branched stems, leaves from 4 mm to more than 1 cm wide, shorter than the stem or longer, only one flower to as many as three on a stem, and colors from deep blue to almost pure white. A single plant found on the Pariah Plateau in Kane County, Utah, with leaves only 3?4 mm wide and a single flower stem only 4 cm long, which meant that the flower was at almost ground level, was named Iris pariensis. No other such specimen has been located, and this entity must be considered as just an aberrant form that was due to the desertlike conditions in which it was growing."

**Iris pseudacorus* L. [FNA26, HC, HC2]
Sp. Pl. 1: 38. 1753.
pale yellow iris

Iris tenax Douglas ex Lindl. [FNA26, HC, HC2]
Edwards?s Bot. Reg. 15: plate 1218. 1829.
Oregon flag, tough-leaf iris

var. *tenax* [HC2]
Oregon flag, tough-leaf iris

Iris tenax Douglas ex Lindl. ssp. *klamathensis* L.W. Lenz [KZ99]
Iris tenax Douglas ex Lindl. ssp. *tenax* [KZ99]

Olsynium [FNA26, HC2]
New Fl. 1: 72. 1836.
purple-eyed grass, grass-widow

Olsynium douglasii (A. Dietr.) E.P. Bicknell [FNA26, HC2]
Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 27: 237. 1900.
grass-widow, purple-eyed grass-widow

Sisyrinchium douglasii A. Dietr. [HC]

var. *douglasii* [FNA26, HC2]
Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 27: 237. 1900.
purple-eyed grass-widow

Sisyrinchium douglasii A. Dietr. ssp. *douglasii*
Sisyrinchium douglasii A. Dietr. var. *douglasii* [JPM]

Generic taxonomy tentatively follows FNA. This genus is differentiated from Sisyrinchium by its round leaves and fused filaments (Goldblatt et al. 1990). FNA26: var. douglasii - "Filament columns tapering evenly to base or slightly flared."

var. *inflatum* (Suksd.) Cholewa & Douglass M. Hend. [FNA26, HC2]
Madroño. 38: 232. 1991.
grass-widow, purple-eyed grass-widow

Olysnium inflatum Suks.
Sisyrinchium douglasii A. Dietr. var. *inflatum* (Suksd.) P.K. Holmgren
Sisyrinchium inflatum (Suksd.) H. St. John [HC]

The distinction between S. douglasii var. douglasii and var. inflatum is weak, and the complex needs further study. FNA26: var. inflatum - "Filament columns abruptly and broadly flared at base."

Sisyrinchium [FNA26, HC, HC2]
Sp. Pl. 2: 954. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 409. 1754.
blue-eyed grass, sisyrinchium
(see also *Olsynium*)

Sisyrinchium californicum (Ker Gawl.) W.T.Aiton [FNA26, HC, HC2]
Hortus Kew. 4: 135. 1812.
golden blue-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium boreale (E.P. Bicknell) J.K. Henry
Sisyrinchium brachypus (E.P. Bicknell) J.K. Henry
Sisyrinchium flavidum Kellogg
Sisyrinchium lineatum Torr.

Sisyrinchium idahoense E.P. Bicknell [FNA26, HC2]
Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 26: 445. 1899.
Idaho blue-eyed grass

var. *idahoense* [FNA26, HC2]
Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 26: 445. 1899.
Idaho blue-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium birameum Piper [VPPNW1]
Sisyrinchium halophilum Greene [FNA26, HC2], misapplied

The varieties are poorly defined and need study, they may not be distinct. We provisionally follow the taxonomy of Henderson (1976).

var. *macounii* (E.P. Bicknell) Douglass M. Hend. [FNA26, HC2]
Brittonia. 28: 172. 1976.
Macoun's blue-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium macounii E.P. Bicknell

Restricted to San Juan Co., the Gulf Islands, and southern Vancouver Island. The taxonomy of the varieties needs review.

var. *occidentale* (E.P. Bicknell) Douglass M. Hend. [FNA26, HC2]
Brittonia. 28: 174. 1976.
western blue-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium occidentale E.P. Bicknell

var. *segetum* (E.P. Bicknell) Douglass M. Hend. [FNA26, HC2]
Brittonia. 28: 174. 1976.
cornfield blue-eyed grass, prairie grass

Sisyrinchium segetum E.P. Bicknell

Endemic to NW Washington and a small area of adjacent BC. The taxonomy of the varieties needs review.

Sisyrinchium littorale Greene [FNA26, HC2]
Pittonia. 4: 33. 1899.
Alaska blue-eyed grass, shore blue-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium montanum Greene [FNA26, HC2]
Pittonia. 4: 33. 1899.
strict blue-eyed grass

var. *montanum* [FNA26, HC2]

Sisyrinchium sarmentosum Suksd. ex Greene [FNA26, HC2]
Erythea. 3: 121. 1895.
Suksdorf's blue-eyed grass

Endemic to a small area of the Cascade Mountains on the Oregon and Washington border. FNA26: " The pale blue flowers with rounded apices on the outer tepals set this species apart from others in the region."

Sisyrinchium septentrionale E.P. Bicknell [FNA26, HC2]
Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 26: 452. 1899.
northern blue-eyed grass

FNA26: "Sisyrinchium septentrionale is widespread but apparently not common in western Canada. In central Canada it intergrades with S. mucronatum, to which it appears closely related (see discussion, p. 367). It is confused also with S. montanum but can be distinguished by its very slender, very long outer spathe and nongibbous inner spathe. Fresh material will show lighter blue flowers and outer tepals with rounded apices."