

Washington Flora Checklist

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

Family: Melanthiaceae

15 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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 Washington Flora Checklist database on April 18th, 2026 at 10:05am PT.

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

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:

David Giblin (dgiblin@uw.edu)

Peter Zika (zikap941@gmail.com)

Suggested citation:

Weinmann, F., P.F. Zika, D.E. Giblin, B. Legler. 2002+. Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Washington State. University of Washington Herbarium. <https://burkeherbarium.org/waflora/>. Accessed Apr 18, 2026.

Monocots:

Melanthiaceae [HC2] False-Hellebore Family

Taxonomy follows APG III (<http://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/apweb/welcome.html>).

Anticlea [HC2]

death camas

Anticlea elegans (Pursh) Rydb. [HC2]

Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 30: 273. 1903.
glaucous death-camas

Anticlea coloradensis (Rydb.) Rydb.

Zigadenus alpinus Blank.

Zigadenus elegans Pursh ssp. *elegans* [KZ99]

FNA26: "Zigadenus elegans has been treated previously as comprising two varieties, or two subspecies (W. B. Zomlefer 1997b). The western var. or subsp. *elegans* tends to be a smaller plant with a raceme or a 1?2-branched panicle and glabrous, sometimes glaucous leaves and stems; while the eastern var. or subsp. *glaucus* tends to be a larger plant with a paniculate inflorescence and glaucous leaves and stems. Because there is considerable evidence of intergradation between the two entities toward the middle of the range, including overlapping flowering times, they have not been formally distinguished here"

Anticlea occidentalis (A. Gray) Zomlefer & Judd [HC2, OFP]

Novon 12(2): 303. 2002.
bronze bells, mission bells, western featherbells

Stenanthella occidentalis (A. Gray) Rydb.

Stenanthium occidentale A. Gray [FNA26, HC]

Stenanthium rhombipetalum Suksd.

FNA26: "Stenanthium occidentale is similar to a circum-northern Pacific and Sakhalin Island endemic, *S. sachalinense* F. Schmidt, which may be conspecific (S. M. Kupchan et al. 1961; F. H. Utech 1987)."

Toxicoscordion [HC2]

death-camas, zigadenus, zygadene

Toxicoscordion paniculatum (Nutt.) Rydb. [HC2, JPM2]

Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 30: 272. 1903.
sand corn, panicked death-camas

Helonias paniculatus Nutt.

Zigadenus paniculatus (Nutt.) S. Watson [FNA26, HC]

Toxicoscordion venenosum (S. Watson) Rydb. [HC2]

Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 30(5): 272. 1903.
meadow death-camas, deadly zygadene

Zigadenus venenosus S. Watson [FNA26, HC]

var. *gramineum* (Rydb.) Brasher [HC2]

Novon 19(3): 295. 2009.
common death-camas, grassy death-camas

Toxicoscordion gramineum (Rydb.) Rydb.

Zigadenus gramineus Rydb.

Zigadenus intermedius Rydb.

Zigadenus venenosus S. Watson var. *gramineus* (Rydb.) Walsh ex M. Peck [FNA26, HC]

var. *venenosum* [HC2, JPM2]

coastal death-camas, common death-camas

Toxicoscordion salinum (A. Nelson) R.R. Gates
Zigadenus diegoensis Davidson
Zigadenus salinus A. Nelson
Zigadenus venenosus S. Watson var. *ambiguus* M.E. Jones
Zigadenus venenosus S. Watson var. *venenosus* [FNA26, HC]

FNA26: "The inflorescences of most plants in each population of var. *venenosus* are racemose, but those of a few individuals are paniculate, with a single short basal branch."

Trillium [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 339. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 158. 1754.
trillium, wake-robin

Trillium albidum J.D. Freeman [FNA26, HC2]

Brittonia. 27: 48, fig. 11. 1975.
giant trillium, sessile trillium

Trillium chloropetalum (Torr.) Howell [FNA26, HC], misapplied
Trillium chloropetalum (Torr.) Howell var. *chloropetalum* [FNA26], misapplied

ssp. *parviflorum* (V.G. Soukup) K.L. Chambers & S.C. Mey.s [HC2]

J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas 5(2): 620. 2011.
small-flowered trillium

Trillium albidum J.D. Freeman [FNA26, HC2], misapplied
Trillium parviflorum V.G. Soukup

Trillium crassifolium Piper

Piper, Erythea 7: 104. 1899.
thick-leaved trillium, thick-leaved wake-robin

Trillium ovatum Pursh [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Fl. Amer. Sept. 1: 245. 1814.
western trillium, white trillium

Trillium ovatum Pursh var. *ovatum* [FNA26, HC2]
Trillium scouleri Rydb. ex Gleason

T. scouleri historically misapplied to *T. stenosepalum*.

Trillium petiolatum Pursh [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Fl. Amer. Sept. 1: 244. 1814.
purple trillium, purple wake-robin

Trillium stenosepalum (R.R.Gates) A.J.Wright

Wayman et al. Madrono 70(3): 158-171. 2023.
western white trillium, western wake-robin

T. scouleri historically misapplied to *T. stenosepalum*.

Veratrum [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1044. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5: 468. 1754.
corn-lily, false hellebore, skunk-cabbage

Veratrum californicum Durand [FNA26, HC, HC2]

J. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, ser. 2. 3: 103. 1855.
California false hellebore

var. *californicum* [FNA26, HC, HC2]

J. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, ser. 2. 3: 103. 1855.
skunk cabbage, California wild hellebore

Veratrum eschscholtzii A. Gray var. *watsonii* Baker
Veratrum jonesii A. Heller
Veratrum speciosum Rydb.
Veratrum tenuipetalum A. Heller

FNA26: "N. Chiariello et al. (1980), using the snow-bank-emergent characteristics of *Veratrum californicum*, documented that the plants differing in open versus closed bud morphologies also have different leaf areas, internal temperatures, and rates of early expansion growth. These differences in life-history characteristics are inferentially similar to those of other alpine and northern *Veratrum* species."

var. *caudatum* (A. Heller) C.L. Hitchc. [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Vasc. Pl. Pacif. N.W. 1: 809. 1969.
skunk cabbage, tailed wild hellebore

Veratrum caudatum A. Heller

FNA26: "*Veratrum californicum* var. *caudatum* occurs mostly west of the Cascade Mountains in the Pacific Northwest."

Veratrum insolitum Jeps. [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Fl. Calif. 1: 266. 1921.
siskiyou wild hellebore

FNA26: "The only other whitish-flowered species in North America, *Veratrum californicum*, which might be confused with *V. insolitum*, has entire, unfringed tepals, and only slightly hairy ovaries."

Veratrum viride Aiton [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Hort. Kew. 3: 422. 1789.
American false hellebore, green false hellebore, Indian-poke

var. *eschscholtzianum* (Schult. & Schult.f.) Breitung [FNA26, HC2]

Canad. Field-Naturalist. 71: 49. 1957 (as *eschscholtzii*). 1957.

Veratrum eschscholtzianum (Roem. & Schult.) Rydb.

Veratrum eschscholtzii A. Gray

Veratrum eschscholtzii A. Gray var. *incriminatum* B. Boivin

Veratrum viride Aiton ssp. *eschscholtzii* (A. Gray) Á. Löve & D. Löve

Veratrum viride Aiton var. *eschscholtzii* (A. Gray) Breitung

Veratrum viride Aiton var. *eschscholtzianum* (Roem. & Schult.) Breitung, orthographic variant (misspelling)

Xerophyllum [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 1: 210. 1803.
basket-grass, beargrass, turkey-beard

Xerophyllum tenax (Pursh) Nutt. [FNA26, HC, HC2]

Gen. N. Amer. Pl. 1: 235. 1818.
beargrass, western turkeybeard

Helonias tenax Pursh

Xerophyllum douglasii S. Watson

FNA26: "*Xerophyllum tenax*, variable in plant and flower size, is without evident geographic races (S. M. Maule 1959). Similar in most respects to *X. asphodeloides* but more robust, *X. tenax* typically has twice the number of flowers (F. H. Utech 1978c). The leaf fibers were used by native tribes for garments and decorative, watertight baskets. The bulbous rhizomes were roasted for several days before being eaten."