

Washington Flora Checklist

A checklist of the Vascular Plants of Washington State

Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

Family: Oxalidaceae

6 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superceded by new information.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 August 30th, 2025 at 8:16pm 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 Aug 30, 2025.

Dicots:

Oxalidaceae [HC, HC2] Wood-Sorrel Family

Oxalis [HC, HC2]

lady's-sorrel, oxalis, wood-sorrel

* *Oxalis corniculata* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 435. 1753.

creeping yellow wood-sorrel

FNA12: "*Oxalis corniculata* in the flora area is recognized by a combination of its small flowers (petals yellow, 4-8 mm); sparsely hairy, herbaceous stems creeping and rooting at nodes; and stipules with free flanges and apical auricles. Peduncles and leaves (one to three) are produced at the nodes, short erect stems less commonly so. Specimens have been seen documenting its distribution in the United States as listed above; it may also occur in intervening areas.

The typical form of *Oxalis corniculata* is strictly annual with consistently herbaceous, prostrate stems. At least some populations in western Oregon are distinctly more erect, with decumbent-ascending stems, than those of the eastern United States. In contrast, stems of *O. dillenii* characteristically are initially erect but may become decumbent to prostrate, occasionally rooting at the nodes; they almost always become more or less woody. Stems arising from nodes of laterally oriented stems characteristically are erect. In most of the United States, *O. corniculata* usually occurs in urban and highly disturbed habitats, but along the Gulf Coast it occasionally grows in less obviously disturbed sites and might be native there. However, assignment of nativity awaits a clearer understanding of patterns of variation within what is recognized as a highly variable species.

Variants of *Oxalis corniculata* and closely similar forms occur in Mexico, the West Indies, Central America, and South America, as well as in other parts of the world, including the flora area. Plants with bronze-purple to maroon leaves and hairy capsules have been recognized as var. *atropurpurea* (for example, in Florida, D. B. Ward 2004; in California, L. Abrams and R. S. Ferris 1923?1960, vol. 3). Variety *atropurpurea* in Malaysia has features of a distinct species, differing from typical *O. corniculata* in karyotype as well as in floral and vegetative morphology and is isolated by post-pollination reproductive barriers (B. R. Nair and P. Kuriachan 2004). Australasian variants sometimes identified as *O. corniculata* recently have been treated at specific rank (for example, P. J. de Lange et al. 2005). In view of the significant variation in ploidy level reported for the species, formal recognition of these and probably still other segregates may be justified."

* *Oxalis dillenii* Jacq. [HC, HC2]

Oxalis 28. 1794.

slender yellow wood-sorrel

Oxalis corniculata L. var. *dillenii* (Jacq.) Trel.

Oxalis oregana Nutt. [HC, HC2]

Fl. N. Amer. 1(2): 211. 1838.

redwood-sorrel, Oregon wood-sorrel

* *Oxalis stricta* L. [HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 435. 1753.

upright yellow wood-sorrel

Oxalis ambigua Jacq.

Oxalis bushii Small

Oxalis coloradensis Rydb.

Oxalis cymosa Small

Oxalis europaea Jord.

Oxalis fontana Bunge

Oxalis interior (Small) Fedde

Oxalis rufa Small

Oxalis suksdorfii Trel. [HC, HC2]

Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History 4: 89. 1888.
western yellow wood-sorrel

Oxalis corniculata L. var. *macrantha* Trel., misapplied

Oxalis pumila Nutt.

Xanthoxalis suksdorfii (Trel.) Small

Rare.

Oxalis trilliifolia Hook. [HC, HC2]

Flora Boreali-Americana 1(3): 118. (as *trilliifolium*). 1831.
great wood-sorrel, trillium-leaf wood-sorrel

Hesperoxalis trilliifolia (Hook.) Small