Washington Flora Checklist

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

Family: Sarraceniaceae

4 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and synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the 2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest except where superceded by new information.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 July 12th, 2025 at 8:30am 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 Jul 12, 2025.

Dicots:

Sarraceniaceae [FNA8, HC, HC2] Pitcherplant Family

FNA8: "The North American pitcher plants are a fascinating group of carnivorous plants with leaves modified into tubular pitfall traps that attract, catch, and digest small invertebrate prey. The pitchers have no moving parts but contain downward-pointing hairs on the interior surfaces. The hoods keep out rainwater and prevent flying prey from escaping; only Sarracenia purpurea and S. rosea normally contain rainwater inside the pitchers. Darlingtoniacalifornica is found scattered in the Pacific Northwest (California and Oregon). Sarracenia occurs mainly in the southeastern United States, with one species (S. purpurea) occurring northward and westward across Canada to British Columbia, and naturalized in Switzerland, the British Isles, and Japan. Heliamphora Bentham, a tropical genus with about 15 species, is endemic to the Guayana Highlands of northern Brazil, western Guyana, and southern Venezuela. All species are characteristic of moist-to-wet, open, sunny, low-nutrient, acidic habitats. The evolutionary origins and relationships of the Sarraceniaceae are obscure, and there is only one (highly questionable) fossil record (Li H. Q. 2005). Molecular data suggest Ericalean affinities (R. J. Bayer et al. 1996). Some authors have suggested that Heliamphora is primitive in the family (B. Maguire 1978) because its pitcher structure is less complex. All three genera have specializations, and their pitcher morphologies are likely affected by adaptations to their wet environments and carnivorous habits. Because we cannot reliably ascertain which taxa are primitive in this family, the genera and species are presented in alphabetic order."

*Darlingtonia [FNA8, HC, HC2]

Smithsonian Contr. Knowl. 6(4): 4, plate 12. 1853.
cobra-plant, California pitcher-plant

*Darlingtonia californica Torr. [FNA8, HC, HC2]

Smithsonian Contr. Knowl. 6(4): 5, plate 12. 1853.
cobraplant

FNA8: "Within California, Darlingtonia californica is disjunct from Del Norte County in the northwest to Nevada County southeasterly in the Sierra Nevada, and introduced in Humboldt and Mendocino counties. In Oregon, it occurs in the coastal lowlands and inland mountains of Curry and Josephine counties northward to Tillamook County. It is introduced on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, and in southern Washington. It may form relatively large stoloniferous colonies on mountain slopes or meadows and in coastal lowlands, or in shallow streams and seepage bogs. The flowers are initiated in the fall and overwinter in the bud stage, protected by the bracts. The fruits mature in late summer to fall, with seed dispersal continuing throughout the winter. The long papillae on the seeds allow flotation. Darlingtonia californica is stunning in the wild, eagerly sought for cultivation, and difficult to grow outside its cool native range. It was discovered in 1841 on the Wilkes Expedition by the assistant botanist, W. D. Brackenridge, growing in a marsh bordering a tributary on the Sacramento River south of Shasta Peak. It is currently threatened by road building, draining, logging, ranching, drought, and unscrupulous collectors. Darlingtonia and some eastern American species of carnivorous plants have been transplanted into sites in northern California and the Pacific Northwest."

*Sarracenia [FNA8, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 510. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 226. 1754.
pitcher-plant

*Sarracenia flava L. [FNA8, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 510. 1753.
yellow pitcher-plant, yellow trumpet

FNA8: "Sarracenia flava ranges from the southeastern coastal plain of Virginia and isolated piedmont localities in North Carolina through the coastal plain of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the western Florida panhandle mostly near and west of the Ochlockonee River and west just into southeastern Alabama, with isolated sites in northeastern Florida. It is naturalized in Skagit County, Washington. Sarracenia flava is a striking plant, often forming large stands, at least historically. It is much less common with the advent of drainage and changing land use. It has one main flush of pitchers in spring to early summer. It is quite variable over its range with regard to vein patterns and markings on the pitchers, and at

least seven varieties have been formally named (see D. E. Schnell 2002)."

*_Sarracenia leucophylla_ Raf. [FNA8, HC2]

Fl. Ludov. 14. 1817.

white-topped pitcher-plant

FNA8: "Sarracenia leucophylla occurs on the coastal plain of the Florida panhandle west of the Ochlockonee River, and across southern Alabama to southeastern Mississippi; it is rare in southwestern Georgia, introduced and established in southeastern Virginia, and a rare escape in Skagit County, Washington. Sarracenia leucophylla is a striking plant, noticeable from a distance, and capable of forming extensive, nearly solid stands in open, wet meadows and seepage slopes and pine flatwoods across the Gulf Coast region. The number of populations has been severely reduced by development and fire suppression. Its spring pitchers are not as robust or profuse as the late-summer pitchers, the latter especially attracting moths. This species responds well to winter fires, resulting in abundant growth later that spring. In some managed areas, the attractive tubes are judiciously harvested and sold, fresh or dried, as "cut flowers" in florist shops. Pure white pitchers (no colored veins) with red petals or totally anthocyanin-free individuals with yellow petals occur. Capsules of Sarracenia leucophylla dehisce acropetally rather than basipetally as in all other species in the family. G. W. Folkerts and D. R. Folkerts (1989) hypothesized that this adaptation allows seeds to be released with less likelihood of being caught and held by the persistent style discs."

*_Sarracenia purpurea_ L. [FNA8, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 510. 1753.

purple pitcher-plant

*ssp. _purpurea_ [FNA8, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 1: 510. 1753.

northern pitcher-plant, purple pitcher-plant

Sarracenia purpurea L. ssp. _gibbosa_ (Raf.) Wherry
Sarracenia purpurea L. var. _ripicola_ B. Boivin
Sarracenia purpurea L. var. _stolonifera_ Macfarl. & Steckbeck
Sarracenia purpurea L. var. _terrae-novae_ LaPylaie

FNA8: "Subspecies purpurea is introduced in California and Washington, in Europe in the British Isles and Switzerland, and in Japan. It is widespread and variable, and its adaptability is evidenced by the kinds of wetland habitats in which it grows. It is widely grown for ornament and teaching purposes and is the subject of much research on microorganisms and invertebrates, especially Wyeomyia Theobald mosquito larvae that live in the pitcher fluid."