

Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist

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

Family: Valerianaceae

16 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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 April 4th, 2026 at 1:14am PT.

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

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:

David Giblin (dgiblin@uw.edu)

Peter Zika (zikap941@gmail.com)

Suggested citation:

LASTNAME, F., OTHER PEOPLE. 2023+. Checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Herbarium. <https://www.pnwherbaria.org/pnwflora/>. Accessed Apr 4, 2026.

Dicots:

Valerianaceae [HC, HC2] Valerian Family

**Centranthus* [HC2]

valerian

**Centranthus ruber* (L.) DC. [HC2, JPM]

Fl. Franç. (ed. 3) 4: 239. 1805.

Jupiter's-beard

Commonly naturalized in Seattle in disturbed areas such as roadsides, sidewalk cracks, and abandoned lots.

Plectritis [HC, HC2]

plectritis

Plectritis brachystemon Fisch. & C.A. Mey. [HC2, OFP]

Index Seminum [St.Petersburg (Petropolitanus)] 2: 47 (-48). 1836.

short-spurred plectritis

Plectritis congesta (Lindl.) DC. ssp. *brachystemon* (Fisch. & C.A. Mey.) Morey [JPM2]

Plectritis congesta (Lindl.) DC. var. *major* (Fisch. & C.A. Mey.) Dyal

Valeriana brachystemon (Fisch. & C.A. Mey.) Byng & Christenh.

Plectritis ciliosa (Greene) Jeps. [HC, HC2]

Nov. Gen. Sp. Pl. 1: 40. 1824.

Plectritis ciliosa (Greene) Jeps. ssp. *ciliosa* [KZ99]

Plectritis ciliosa (Greene) Jeps. ssp. *insignis* (Suksd.) Morey [KZ99]

Valeriana ciliosa (Greene) Byng & Christenh.

Plectritis congesta (Lindl.) DC. [HC, HC2]

Prodr. 4: 631. 1830.

sea blush

Plectritis congesta (Lindl.) DC. ssp. *congesta* [KZ99]

Valeriana congesta (Lindl.) Byng & Christenh.

Plectritis macrocera Torr. & A. Gray [HC, HC2]

Fl. N. Amer. 2(1): 50. 1841.

Plectritis macrocera Torr. & A. Gray ssp. *grayi* (Suksd.) Morey [KZ99]

Plectritis macrocera Torr. & A. Gray ssp. *macrocera* [KZ99]

Plectritis macrocera Torr. & A. Gray var. *collina* (A. Heller) Dyal

Plectritis macrocera Torr. & A. Gray var. *grayi* (Suksd.) Dyal

Plectritis macrocera Torr. & A. Gray var. *macroptera* Suksd.

Plectritis macrocera Torr. & A. Gray var. *mamillata* (Suksd.) Dyal

Valeriana macrocera (Torr. & A.Gray) Byng & Christenh.

Valeriana [HC, HC2]

valerian

Valeriana acutiloba Rydb. [HC, HC2]

downy-fruit valerian

var. *pubicarpa* (Rydb.) Cronquist [HC, HC2]

Vasc. Pl. Pacific NW 4: 474. 1959.

downy fruit valerian, downy-fruited valeriana

Valeriana pubicarpa Rydb. [JPM]

Valeriana columbiana Piper [HC, HC2]

Bot. Gaz. 22(6): 489-490. 1896.
Wenatchee valerian

***Valeriana dioica* L. [HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 1: 31. 1753.
woodland valerian

var. *sylvatica* S. Watson [HC, HC2]

Botany Fortieth Parallel 136. 1871.
northern valerian

Valeriana dioica L. ssp. *sylvatica* (S. Watson) F.G. Mey.

***Valeriana edulis* Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray [HC, HC2]**

Fl. N. Amer. (Torr. & A. Gray) 2(1): 48. 1841.
tobacco-root, edible valerian

var. *edulis* [HC, HC2]

Fl. N. Amer. 2(1): 48. 1841.
tobacco root

***Valeriana occidentalis* A. Heller [HC, HC2]**

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 25(5): 269-270. 1898.
small-flower valerian, western valerian

Examination of all specimens reported from WA as of 2025 showed that they are *V. sitchensis*. This species is considered excluded until collected specimens indicate otherwise.

* ***Valeriana officinalis* L. [HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 1: 31-32. 1753.
allheal, garden heliotrope

There are no specimens confirming that this species was ever or is established in the flora. All WA specimens suggest cultivated settings.

***Valeriana scouleri* Rydb. [HC, HC2]**

Mem. New York Bot. Gard. 1: 377. 1900.
Scouler's valerian

Valeriana sitchensis Bong. ssp. *scouleri* (Rydb.) F.G. Mey.

Valeriana sitchensis Bong. var. *scouleri* (Rydb.) M.E. Jones

***Valeriana sitchensis* Bong. [HC, HC2]**

Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint Pétersbourg (Sér. 7) 2(2): 145-146. 1832.
Sitka valerian

Valeriana sitchensis Bong. var. *hookeri* (Shuttlew.) G.N. Jones

Valeriana sitchensis Bong. var. *sitchensis*

* ***Valerianella* [HC, HC2]**

corn-salad, valerianella

* ***Valerianella carinata* Loisel. [HC, HC2]**

Not. Fl. France 149. 1810.
keel-fruit cornsalad

Between potential misidentifications and apparently cultivated plants, this species is currently not considered naturalized in Washington.

* ***Valerianella eriocarpa* Desv. [HC2]**

* ***Valerianella locusta* (L.) Laterr. [HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 1: 33-34. 1753.
lamb's-lettuce

Valerianella olitoria (L.) Pollich