

The background of the cover is a photograph of a wetland plant with clusters of small, white, five-petaled flowers and green, needle-like leaves. The flowers have prominent stamens. The leaves are dark green and appear to have some reddish-brown spots, possibly from rust or other plant diseases. The overall scene is a close-up of the plant against a blurred background of more foliage.

# Wetland Plants of British Columbia

A Field Guide to Common Species

B.C. Wildlife Federation





# WETLAND PLANTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A Field Guide to Common Species

**VERSION 3**

Authored by the B.C. Wildlife Federation (BCWF)

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Jamie Fenneman – Original Design & Content Development

Ryan Durand – Original Design & Content Development

Jamie Long – Project Coordinator

Kyla Rushton – Technical Editor

Birch Matkowski – Technical Editor

Nadia Pagliaro – Project Assistant

Jessie Lavallee-Whiffen – Designer

Alice Lee – Illustrator

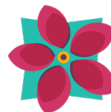
Thank you to everyone who helped bring this guide to life.

Your support makes our ongoing conservation and education efforts possible.

We are especially grateful to the funders who helped make this resource publicly accessible.



**Watersheds BC**



REAL ESTATE  
**Foundation**  
OF BC



**ECOLOGIC**  
environmental consulting



**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**

We would like to extend a special thank you to Stephen Partington for his generous donation, which helped make Version 3 possible.

# YOUR GUIDE TO B.C.'s WETLAND FLORA

The *Wetland Plants of British Columbia* guidebook was created by the B.C. Wildlife Federation, with technical content, field expertise, and project coordination provided by members of BCWF's Conservation Stewardship Team.

Thank you to everyone who contributed photographs, data, and expertise to this guide. For a full list of photo contributors, visit page 168. Photos are also credited by watermark throughout this resource. Special thank you to Don A. Sutherland, whose photo was used as the cover of this book.

Version 1 (2021) of this guide—developed by Jamie Fenneman and Ryan Durand of Ecologic Consulting Ltd.—was created to support wetland classification alongside the *Land Management Handbook: Wetlands of British Columbia: A Guide to Identification*, commonly referred to as LMH52. Subsequent editions—Version 2 (2022) and this updated Version 3 (2025)—have been restructured for clarity and enhanced with new photo contributions from BCWF staff and members of the public. Version 3 of this resource is the first version to be available in print.

If you find this guide valuable, please consider making a donation to the B.C. Wildlife Federation. Your contribution helps cover the costs of producing resources like this, as well as vital conservation work across B.C.

Donate here:



[www.bcwf.bc.ca/donate](http://www.bcwf.bc.ca/donate)

Across British Columbia, the B.C. Wildlife Federation's conservation efforts take place on the traditional and contemporary territories of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded these lands and waters since time immemorial. The B.C. Wildlife Federation's head office is located on the unceded ancestral, traditional, and contemporary territories of the Semiahmoo, sq̓əci'y̓aʔ təm̓əxʷ (Katzie), S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō), Á,LENENEÇ ŁTE (WSÁNEĆ), Kwantlen, Stz'umínus, and Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group Nations.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	7
HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE.....	8
SPECIES NAMES.....	12
DISTRIBUTION MAPS.....	13
WOODY WETLAND PLANTS.....	15
<b>Trees - Deciduous</b> .....	16
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>   Big Leaf Maple	16
<i>Alnus rubra</i>   Red Alder	17
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>   Black Cottonwood	18
<b>Trees - Coniferous</b> .....	19
<i>Abies amabilis</i>   Amabilis Fir	19
<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>   Subalpine Fir	20
<i>Callitropsis nootkatensis</i>   Yellow Cedar	21
<i>Larix laricina</i>   Tamarack	22
<i>Picea x albertiana</i>   Hybrid White Spruce	23
<i>Picea mariana</i>   Black Spruce	24
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>   Sitka Spruce	26
<i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>contorta</i>   Shore Pine	27
<i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>   Lodgepole Pine	28
<i>Thuja plicata</i>   Western Red Cedar	29
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>   Western Hemlock	30
<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>   Mountain Hemlock	31
<b>Shrubs - Willows</b> .....	32
<i>Salix barclayi</i>   Barclay's Willow	32
<i>Salix bebbiana</i>   Bebb's Willow	33
<i>Salix drummondiana</i>   Drummond's Willow	34
<i>Salix exigua</i>   Narrow Leaf Willow	35
<i>Salix lasiandra</i>   Pacific Willow	36
<i>Salix maccalliana</i>   MacCalla's Willow	37
<i>Salix myrtillofolia</i>   Bilberry Willow	38
<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>   Bog Willow	39
<i>Salix sitchensis</i>   Sitka Willow	40
<b>Shrubs</b> .....	41
<i>Acer glabrum</i>   Douglas Maple	41
<i>Alnus incana</i>   Mountain Alder	42
<i>Betula glandulosa</i>   Dwarf Birch	43
<i>Betula occidentalis</i>   Water Birch	44

## Shrubs Continued

<i>Cornus sericea</i>   Red-osier Dogwood	45
<i>Elliottia pyroliflora</i>   Copperbush	46
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>   Salal	47
<i>Juniperus communis</i>   Common Juniper	48
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i> var. <i>involucrata</i>   Black Twinberry	49
<i>Myrica gale</i>   Sweet Gale	50
<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>   Devil's Club	51
<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>   Labrador Tea	52
<i>Ribes bracteosum</i>   Stink Currant	53
<i>Rosa acicularis</i> ssp. <i>sayi</i>   Prickly Rose	54
<i>Rosa nutkana</i>   Nootka Rose	55
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>   Wood's Rose	57
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>   Thimbleberry	58
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>   Salmonberry	59
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>arborescens</i>   Coastal Red Elderberry	60
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>   Hardhack	61
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>   Common Snowberry	62
<i>Vaccinium alaskaense</i>   Alaska Blueberry	63
<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>   Oval-leaved Blueberry	64
<i>Viburnum edule</i>   Highbush Cranberry	65

## Shrubs - Dwarf..... 66

<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>   Bog Rosemary	66
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>   Crowberry	67
<i>Gaultheria hispidula</i>   Creeping Wintergreen	68
<i>Kalmia microphylla</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>   Western Bog Laurel	69
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>   Cloudberry	70
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>   Bog Cranberry	71
<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>   Bog Blueberry	72
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>   Lingonberry	73

## FORBS..... 75

### Herbaceous Plants..... 76

<i>Actaea rubra</i>   Baneberry	76
<i>Caltha leptosepala</i>   White Mountain Marsh Marigold	77
<i>Cicuta douglasii</i>   Douglas' Water Hemlock	78
<i>Circaea alpina</i> ssp. <i>alpina</i>   Enchanter's Nightshade	79
<i>Comarum palustre</i>   Marsh Cinquefoil	80
<i>Coptis trifolia</i>   Three Leaved Goldthread	81
<i>Drosera anglica</i>   Great Sundew	82
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>   Round Leaved Sundew	83
<i>Galium trifidum</i> ssp. <i>trifidum</i>   Small Bedstraw	85
<i>Heracleum maximum</i>   Cow Parsnip	86
<i>Hypericum anagalloides</i>   Bog St. John's Wort	87

## Herbaceous Plants Continued

<i>Leptarrhena pyrolifolia</i>   Leatherleaf Saxifrage	88
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>   Skunk Cabbage	89
<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>   False Lily of the Valley	90
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>   Buckbean	91
<i>Nephrophyllidium crista-galli</i>   Deer-cabbage	92
<i>Oenanthe sarmentosa</i>   Pacific Water Parsley	93
<i>Osmorhiza berteroi</i>   Mountain Sweet Cicely	94
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>   Water Smartweed	95
<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>   Fragrant White Rein Orchid	96
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> ssp. <i>anserina</i>   Common Silverweed	98
<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>   Pink Wintergreen	99
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>   Great Burnet	100
<i>Sanguisorba stipulata</i>   Sitka Burnet	101
<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>   Scheuchzeria	102
<i>Senecio triangularis</i>   Arrow Leaved Groundsel	103
<i>Sium suave</i>   Hemlock Water Parsnip	104
<i>Stachys chamissonis</i> var. <i>cooleyae</i>   Cooley's Hedge Nettle	105
<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>   Clasping Twistedstalk	106
<i>Streptopus lanceolatus</i> var. <i>curvipes</i>   Rosy Twistedstalk	107
<i>Symphyotrichum subspicatum</i>   Douglas' Aster	108
<i>Triantha glutinosa</i>   Sticky False Asphodel	109
<i>Triglochin maritima</i>   Seaside Arrow Grass	110
<i>Urtica dioica</i>   Stinging Nettle	111
<i>Valeriana sitchensis</i>   Sitka Valerian	112
<i>Veratrum viride</i> var. <i>eschscholziaenum</i>   Green False Hellebore	113
<i>Viola palustris</i>   Marsh Violet	114
<b>Aquatic Plants</b> .....	<b>115</b>
<i>Nuphar polysepala</i>   Rocky Mountain Pond Lily	115
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>   Richardson's Pondweed	116
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>macrorrhiza</i>   Greater Bladderwort	117
<b>GRAMINOIDS</b> .....	<b>119</b>
<b>Sedges</b> .....	<b>120</b>
<i>Carex anthoxanthea</i>   Yellow Flowered Sedge	120
<i>Carex aquatilis</i>   Water Sedge	121
<i>Carex atherodes</i>   Awned Sedge	122
<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i>   Cordroot Sedge	123
<i>Carex disperma</i>   Soft Leaved Sedge	124
<i>Carex exsiccata</i>   Inflated Sedge	125
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>   Slender Sedge	126
<i>Carex limosa</i>   Shore Sedge	127
<i>Carex livida</i>   Pale Sedge	128
<i>Carex magellanica</i> ssp. <i>irrigua</i>   Poor Sedge	129

**Sedges Continued**

*Carex pauciflora* | Few Flowered Sedge 130  
*Carex pluriflora* | Many Flowered Sedge 131  
*Carex sitchensis* | Sitka Sedge 132  
*Carex tenuiflora* | Sparse Flowered Sedge 133  
*Carex utriculata* | Beaked Sedge 134  
*Dulichium arundinaceum* | Three-way Sedge 135  
*Eriophorum angustifolium* | Narrow-leaved Cotton Grass 136  
*Eriophorum chamissonis* | Chamisso's Cotton Grass 138  
*Trichophorum alpinum* | Hudson Bay Clubrush 139  
*Trichophorum cespitosum* | Tufted Clubrush 140

**Rushes . . . . . 141**

*Eleocharis palustris* | Common Spike Rush 141  
*Eleocharis quinqueflora* 142  
| Few Flowered Spike Rush 142  
*Juncus balticus* | Baltic Rush 143  
*Rhynchospora alba* | White Beak Rush 144  
*Schoenoplectus acutus* | Hard Stemmed Bulrush 145  
*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* | Soft Stemmed Bulrush 146  
*Scirpus microcarpus* | Small Flowered Bulrush 147

**Grasses . . . . . 148**

*Calamagrostis canadensis* | Bluejoint Reedgrass 148  
*Elymus glaucus* | Blue Wildrye 149  
*Hordeum jubatum* | Foxtail Barley 150  
*Poa pratensis* ssp. *agassizensis* | Kentucky Bluegrass 151  
*Vahlodea atropurpurea* | Mountain Hairgrass 152

**Cattails . . . . . 153**

*Typha latifolia* | Common Cattail 153

**FERNS AND ALLIES . . . . . 155**

*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclosorum* | Lady Fern 156  
*Equisetum arvense* | Common Horsetail 157  
*Equisetum fluviatile* | Swamp Horsetail 158  
*Equisetum hyemale* ssp. *affine* | Scouring Rush 159  
*Equisetum telmateia* | Giant Horsetail 160  
*Gymnocarpium dryopteris* | Oak Ferns 162  
*Matteuccia struthiopteris* var. *pennsylvanica* | Ostrich Fern 163  
*Polystichum munitum* | Sword Fern 164  
*Struthiopteris spicant* | Deer Fern 165

**APPENDIX 1 . . . . . 166**

**APPENDIX 2 . . . . . 168**

# INTRODUCTION

Wetlands are essential ecosystems in British Columbia, rich in biodiversity and home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. This guide introduces common indicator species found in wetland habitats across the province and is designed to support users in confidently identifying wetland plants while exploring these vital ecosystems.

This guide is intended for both new and experienced naturalists, offering clear descriptions, identification tips, photographs, distribution maps, and notes on similar species.

Our hope is that this guidebook fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the province's wetland flora. Through this book, we intend to encourage a meaningful connection to these ecosystems and support efforts to understand and protect them for future generations.



FEN & OPEN WATER WETLAND  
OKANAGAN REGION  
© KYLA RUSHTON

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide introduces many of the common indicator wetland species found in British Columbia, with a focus on those that are distinct and well-adapted to wetland habitats. Some of these species may also occur in transitional zones or upland areas. Plants are organized into four life form categories: woody plants (trees and shrubs), flowering plants (forbs), grasses and grass-like species (graminoids), and ferns and allies. Where applicable, further divisions are made within each section.

## **Woody Wetland Plants: Trees and shrubs adapted to wet soils:**

- Deciduous Trees: Broad-leaved trees that shed their leaves annually.
- Coniferous Trees: Needle-leaved, evergreen trees.
- Willows: Shrubs or small trees in the genus *Salix*, growing in a variety of wetland conditions.
- Shrubs: Larger woody plants that typically grow 15 cm to 10 m in height, often forming dense thickets.
- Dwarf Shrubs: Low-growing woody plants with stems that are generally less than 15 cm tall at maturity.

## **Forbs: Flowering plants adapted to wet soils:**

- Herbaceous Plants: Non-woody flowering plants that frequently occur in wetlands.
- Aquatic Plants: Wetland obligates that are either rooted in submerged soils or float freely on the water surface.

## **Graminoids: Slender, narrow-leaved wetland plants:**

- Sedges: Grass-like plants in the family Cyperaceae, often with triangular stems and adapted to saturated soils.
- Rushes: Members of the Juncaceae family, rushes are tough, cylindrical-stemmed plants found in wet soils.
- Grasses: True grasses in the Poaceae family, many of which are facultative or obligate wetland species.
- Cattails: Iconic wetland plants known for their cylindrical flower spikes and rhizomatous growth.

## **Ferns and Allies: Spore-producing plants in moist habitats**

## Each species account contains:

- Colour-coded headers indicating the species' growth form.
- English and Latin names, based on current provincial databases (if differing, the scientific name from Wetlands of B.C. is also included).
- Photographs showcasing key characteristics.
- A generalized distribution map of the species.
- A list of common wetland site associations.
- Key identification characteristics.
- Comparisons to similar species, with notable differences in range, habitat, or morphology.

W552 W553 F51 Fm50


TREES  
DECIDUOUS

## Red Alder


*Alnus rubra*

### Key Characters


- **Growth form:** Medium-sized tree.
- **Bark:** Smooth, greyish, blotchy (when mature).
- **Leaves:** Alternate, unlobed, ovate, margins bluntly double-toothed, lateral veins regular and evenly spaced. Margins of leaves slightly rolled under.
- **Flowers:** Male flowers in drooping staminate catkins.
- **Fruits:** Fruits are small, egg-shaped, woody, cone-like catkins.




\*Restricted to low elevations




Bark.



Leaves.



Flowers.




Fruits.

### Similar Species

**Mountain alder** (*Alnus incana* ssp.  *tenuifolia*) is a large shrub or small tree and is almost entirely restricted to interior areas of B.C.; the margins of the leaves are flat (not slightly rolled under).

**Sitka alder** (*A. alnobetula* subsp. *sinuata*) is a medium-sized shrub of middle to high elevations; the leaves are sharply double-toothed.

17 

This guidebook can be used on its own or as a companion to the *Land Management Handbook: Wetlands of British Columbia: A Guide to Identification* (LMH52).

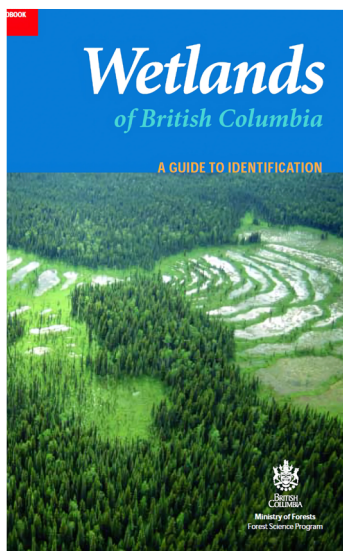
The LMH52 guide describes common plant communities found in wetlands, making it a useful resource for identifying additional plant species that may be growing nearby or for classifying the wetland itself.

When used together, these guides can support the identification of both individual plant species and the broader wetland ecosystems in which they are found.

For each species in this guide, we've included common site associations based on LMH52 classifications (e.g., Wm01, Wf01), offering insight into where each species is typically found. Keep in mind, however, that many species may also occur in site associations not listed here.

These site associations should be seen as a starting point rather than a comprehensive reference. To ensure accurate plant identification and wetland classification, we encourage users to consult multiple resources.

Many of the species featured in this guide are also used in ecosystem classification within the broader biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification (BEC) system. Other land management handbooks—such as LMH65, LMH68, LMH71, LMH75, and LMH76—may provide additional context and site associations for these species, particularly in upland or region-specific ecosystems.



### Where to access LMH52 online:

The full version of *Wetlands of British Columbia: A Guide to Identification* (LMH52) is available as a free downloadable PDF through the Government of British Columbia's website.



You can access it directly by scanning the QR code or at:  
<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/>



MARSH  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION  
© EMMA KINGSLAND

# SPECIES NAMES

Many scientific names of plants have changed in British Columbia since 2004 when the LMH52 guide was created (Table 1-1).

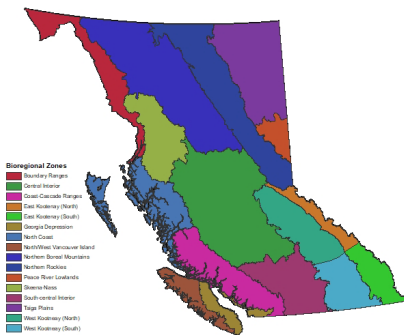
**TABLE 1-1. SPECIES NAME UPDATES SINCE 2004**

Common Name	Current Scientific Name	Wetlands of BC Scientific Name
Alaska Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum subspicatum</i>	<i>Aster subspicatus</i>
Black Cottonwood	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	<i>Populus balsamifera</i> subsp. <i>trichocarpa</i>
Bog Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	<i>Oxycoccus oxycoccos</i>
Deer-cabbage	<i>Nephrophyllidium crista-galli</i>	<i>Fauria crista-galli</i>
Dwarf birch	<i>Betula glandulosa</i>	<i>Betula nana</i>
Interior spruce	<i>Picea</i> Å— <i>albertiana</i>	<i>Picea</i> X
Labrador tea	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>
Pacific willow	<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	<i>Salix lucida</i>
Red elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>arborescens</i>	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>
Red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Sitka burnet	<i>Sanguisorba stipulata</i>	<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i>
Sticky false asphodel	<i>Triantha glutinosa</i> and <i>T. occidentalis</i>	<i>Triantha glutinosa</i>
Water smartweed	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	<i>Olygonum amphibium</i>
Yellow pond-lily	<i>Nuphar polysepala</i>	<i>Nuphar lutea</i> subsp. <i>polysepala</i>
Yellow-cedar	<i>Callitropsis nootkatensis</i>	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>

The English names used in this guide are based on those listed in the BC Species & Ecosystems Explorer. However, many plants have multiple common names, which can vary by region, community, and language.

# DISTRIBUTION MAPS

The Ecoregions of B.C. form the basis for the generalized distribution maps provided for each species. For clarity, the ecoregions have been condensed into 14 bioregional zones (Figure 1-1), which serve as a visual reference for species distribution. Two of these zones—West Kootenays and East Kootenays—have been further divided into northern and southern regions, as species distributions in the Kootenays vary significantly between these areas. The maps indicate where a species is common, uncommon, or absent within each bioregional zone (Figure 1-2). Notable small populations occurring outside a species' typical range (e.g., yellow-cedar) are shown with a black dot. A species mapped as 'common' is generally widespread and may be dominant in wetlands within that region. Where it is mapped as "uncommon," the species is typically restricted to specific habitats or subregions. While it may be locally abundant, it is not generally dominant.



**FIGURE 1-1. THE BIOREGIONAL ZONES OF B.C. FOR WETLAND PLANTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**



**FIGURE 1-2. EXAMPLE OF A GENERALIZED DISTRIBUTION MAP**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this guide. However, plant identification and classification are complex fields and are subject to ongoing research and revision. Users are encouraged to consult multiple sources when identifying species and to verify any critical information before use. The authors and publishers assume no liability for errors, omissions, or interpretations of the content within this guide. This publication is intended for informational and educational purposes only and should not be used as a sole resource.





# WOODY WETLAND PLANTS

TREES AND SHRUBS ADAPTED TO WET SOILS

DECIDUOUS TREES | CONIFEROUS TREES | WILLOWS | SHRUBS

© JOHN D. REYNOLDS

# Big Leaf Maple

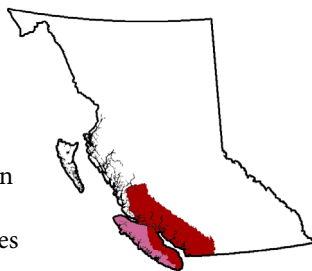
*Acer macrophyllum*

Ws52

Ws53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Large tree.
- **Bark:** Grey-brown, narrowly furrowed when mature.
- **Leaves:** Large, opposite, palmate with 5 lobes deeply divided.
- **Flowers:** Appear in early spring, yellow, in long drooping inflorescences.
- **Fruits:** Fruits in pairs, brownish, bristly-hairy, each with a single large, papery wing (= 'samara') that spread in a 'V' when fruits still connected.



\*Restricted to low elevations



Bark.



Leaves.



Fruits.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Douglas maple** (*Acer glabrum* var. *douglasii*), a large shrub or small tree, with smaller, less deeply 5-lobed leaves, and hairless reddish fruits; it is widespread throughout the southern half of B.C.

**Vine maple** (*Acer circinatum*), a medium-sized shrub to small tree of southwestern B.C.; it has smaller 9-lobed leaves, and pairs of fruits with their wings spreading when still connected.

# Red Alder

*Alnus rubra*

Ws52

Ws53

Fl51

Fm50

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium-sized tree.
- **Bark:** Smooth, greyish, blotchy (when mature).
- **Leaves:** Alternate, unlobed, ovate, margins bluntly double-toothed, lateral veins regular and evenly spaced. Margins of leaves slightly rolled under.
- **Flowers:** Male flowers in drooping staminate catkins.
- **Fruits:** Fruits are small, egg-shaped, woody, cone-like catkins.



\*Restricted to low elevations



Bark.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Mountain alder** (*Alnus incana* ssp. *Tenuifolia*) is a large shrub or small tree and is almost entirely restricted to interior areas of B.C.; the margins of the leaves are flat (not slightly rolled under).

**Sitka alder** (*A. alnobetula* subsp. *sinuata*) is a medium-sized shrub of middle to high elevations; the leaves are sharply double-toothed.

# Black Cottonwood

*Populus trichocarpa* (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*)

Fm01

Fm02

Fm03

Fm50

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium-sized to large trees. Buds have a strong, sweet-scent and are covered in sticky gum in the spring.
- **Bark:** Young bark smooth; mature bark greyish-brown, thick, deeply furrowed.
- **Leaves:** Medium-sized to large, narrowly to broadly egg-shaped with a rounded or abruptly tapered base, tip long-pointed.
- **Fruits:** Pistillate catkins drooping, of numerous spherical, green capsules with 3 valves. At seed dispersal, produces copious amounts of air-dispersed seeds with a white, cottony plume.



Bark.



Leaves



Fruits.



Fruits.



Buds.

## Similar Species

**Balsam poplar** (*Populus balsamifera*) replaces Black Cottonwood in northeastern B.C.; it is very similar, but differs in its tendency for larger leaves to have a more strongly tapered base, and in its 2-valved capsules. These two species hybridize extensively in northern B.C.; both are associated with similar ecosystems in their respective ranges.

# Amabilis Fir

*Abies amabilis*

Ws54

Ws55

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Canopy broad and rounded when mature.
- **Bark:** Greyish-brown, smooth bark, with an abundance of resin blisters when young.
- **Needles:** Soft, blunt-tipped needles that are directly attached to the twig (no woody pegs at the base) and leave a rounded scar when shed. Needles dark green, in two series; one series longer and spreading, the other series shorter and pointing forward along the top of the twig.
- **Cones:** Upright, dark purplish-brown cones that occur high in the tree canopy and disintegrate at maturity.



Bark.



Needles.



Branches.



Cone.

## Similar Species

**Subalpine fir** (*Abies lasiocarpa*) has a narrowly cylindrical canopy and upturned, often blue-tinged needles that are not arranged in two series.

# Subalpine Fir

*Abies lasiocarpa*

Ws08

Ws09

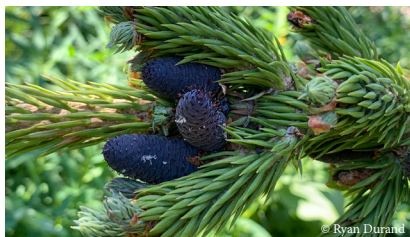
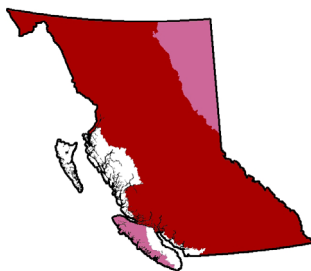
Ws10

Ws11

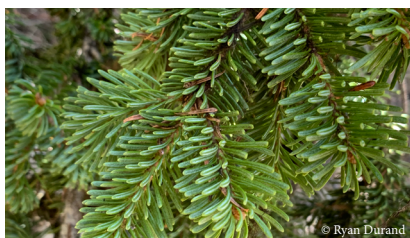
Fm03

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Canopy narrowly cylindrical when mature.
- **Bark:** Greyish-brown, smooth bark, with an abundance of resin blisters when young.
- **Needles:** Soft, blunt-tipped needles that are directly attached to the twig (no woody pegs at the base) and leave a rounded scar when shed. Needles usually turned upwards, at least in the canopy.
- **Cones:** Upright, purplish-black cones that occur high in the tree canopy and disintegrate at maturity.



Cones.



Needles.



Upward cones in canopy.

## Similar Species

**Amabilis fir** (*Abies amabilis*) has a broader, rounder canopy and spreading (not upturned) needles in two series (one longer series spreading, one shorter series pointing forward along the top of the twig).

**Spruces** (*Picea spp.*) often have stiffer, sharper needles (except Black Spruce) and have woody, peg-like bases to the needles that remain on the twig after the needles are shed.

# Yellow Cedar

*Callitropsis nootkatensis*

Ws55

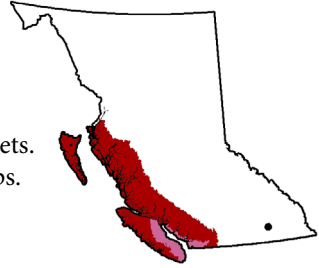
Wb51

Wb52

Wb52

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Flattened, drooping branchlets.
- **Bark:** Greyish bark that occurs in long strips.
- **Leaves:** Scale-like leaves.
- **Cones:** Small, spherical cones with the umbrella-shaped scales all attached to a central point.



\*Primarily in upper elevations



Bark.



Branches.



Cones.



Scale-like leaves.

## Similar Species

**Western redcedar** (*Thuja plicata*) generally occurs at lower elevations and has spreading branchlets with small, oval-shaped cones in which the bract-like scales are attached along a central column.

# Tamarack

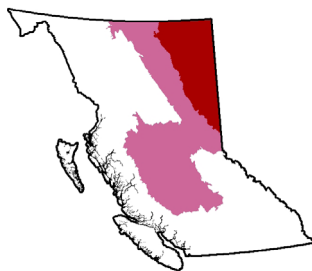
*Larix laricina*

Wb03

Wb06

## Key Characters

- **Growth Form:** Narrow, open conical shape.
- **Needles:** Needles deciduous, turning yellow in fall, borne in lateral bunches on short woody shoots.
- **Cones:** Small, egg-shaped cones with rounded scales; borne upright along the branch.



Bark.



Needles in summer.



Cones.



Needles in fall.

## Similar Species

Highly distinctive; other species of *Larix* (larches) occur in southern British Columbia but do not overlap in range with Tamarack.

# Hybrid White Spruce

*Picea x albertiana*

Ws01

Ws07

Ws08

Ws09

Ws10

Ws11

Wb04

Wb07

Wb08

Fm02

Fm03



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Twigs have fine short hairs.
- **Bark:** Greyish-brown, scaly bark.
- **Needles:** Stiff, sharp needles. Woody pegs at the base of the needles that remain after the needles are shed.
- **Cones:** Oblong cones; scales with somewhat pointed tips.



Cones.



Needles.



Bark.

## Similar Species

**Black spruce** (*Picea mariana*) has shorter, softer, blunt-tipped needles, smaller egg-shaped cones with rounded scales, and more densely woolly-hairy twigs; top of tree often forms a large, dense 'topknot'.

**White spruce** (*Picea glauca*) replaces Hybrid White Spruce in northern and northeastern BC; it has shorter needles (usually < 1.5 cm), rounded cone scales, and hairless twigs.

# Black Spruce

*Picea mariana*

Ws09

Wb01

Wb02

Wb03

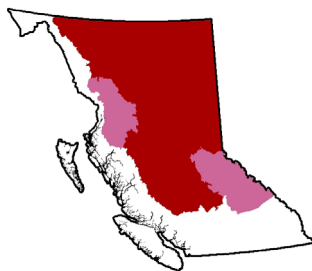
Wb05

Wb06

Wb08

Wb09

Wb11



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Crown of tree often forms dense 'topknot'. Twigs are densely woolly-hairy.
- **Bark:** Greyish-brown, scaly bark.
- **Needles:** Short, soft, blunt-pointed needles. Woody pegs at the base of the needles that remain after the needles are shed.
- **Cones:** Egg-shaped cones; scales with rounded tips.



Needles.



Cones.



Tree with dense 'topknot'.

## Similar Species

**Hybrid white spruce** (*Picea x albertiana*) has longer, stiffer, sharper needles, longer oblong cones with somewhat pointed scales, and less densely hairy twigs.

**White spruce** (*P. glauca*) usually has stiffer, sharper needles, longer oblong cones, and hairless twigs.



BOG  
OMINECA REGION  
© NADIA PAGLIARO

# Sitka Spruce

*Picea sitchensis*

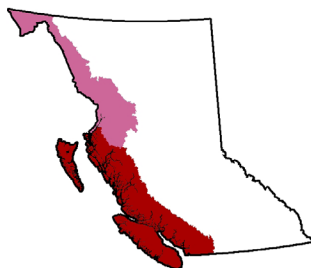
Ws53

Ws54

Fm50

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Often very large trees with hairless twigs.
- **Bark:** Greyish-brown, scaly bark.
- **Needles:** Long, stiff, very sharp, bluish-green needles. Woody pegs at the base of the needles that remain after the needles are shed.
- **Cones:** Oblong cones; scales with somewhat pointed tips and jagged margins.



Bark.



Needles.



Cones.



Growth form.

## Similar Species

**Hybrid white spruce** (*Picea x albertiana*) is a species of interior B.C. (some overlap and hybridization with Sitka Spruce in west-central B.C.) with short-hairy twigs, shorter green needles (usually lacking blue tones), and smaller cones.

# Shore Pine

*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*

Wb51

Wb52

Wb53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Irregular, sprawling, and broadly rounded.
- **Needles:** Clustered towards branch tips, dark green, in fascicles of 2.
- **Cones:** Short-cylindric to egg-shaped, in small clusters, usually asymmetrical and recurved, remain on tree for many years after maturity. Cone scales with a sharp, hooked prickles.



Cones.



Cones.



Needles.



Growth form.

## Similar Species

**Lodgepole pine** (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*) is very similar, but is restricted to interior regions; it has more symmetrical cones that are usually not recurved, longer and more yellow-green needles, and scaly, less deeply furrowed bark.

# Lodgepole Pine

*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

Wb02

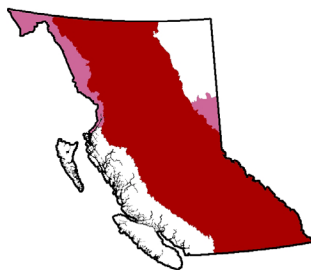
Wb07

Wb10

Wb11

## Key Characters

- **Needles:** Clustered towards branch tips, yellow-green, in fascicles of 2.
- **Cones:** Short-cylindric to egg-shaped, in small clusters, usually perpendicular to branch, remain on tree for many years after maturity. Cone scales with a sharp, hooked prickles.



Cone.



Needles.



Bark.

## Similar Species

**Shore pine** (*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*) is very similar, but is restricted to coastal regions; it has more strongly asymmetrical and recurved cones, shorter and darker-green needles, and thicker and more deeply furrowed bark.

# Western Red Cedar

*Thuja plicata*

Ws10

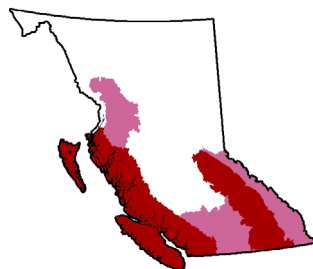
Ws52

Ws53

Ws54

Wb51

Wb52



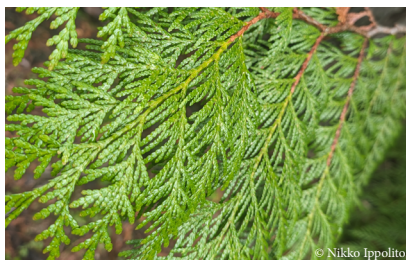
\*Primarily in lower and middle elevations

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Pyramidal or conical shape when young, developing to be more columnar with a buttressed base and arching branches that often droop downwards before tips arching upwards.
- **Bark:** Greyish bark that occurs in long strips when mature.
- **Needles:** Flattened, spreading branchlets with scale-like leaves.



Bark.



Needles.



Cones.



Branches.

## Similar Species

**Yellow cedar** (*Callitropsis nootkatensis*) occurs at higher elevations (some overlap with redcedar in middle elevations or at low elevations along the outer coast) and has drooping branchlets with small, spherical cones in which the umbrella-shaped scales are all attached to a central point.



# Western Hemlock

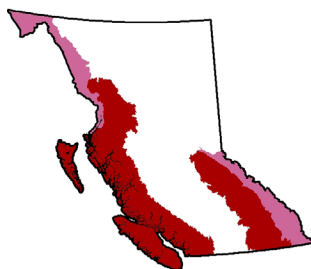
*Tsuga heterophylla*

Ws10

Wb04

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Top of tree nodding, branches form flat sprays.
- **Bark:** Greyish-brown, forming narrow plates.
- **Needles:** Short, variable in length, with woody pegs at the base that remain on the twig after the needles are shed.
- **Cones:** Small, egg-shaped cones (1.5-2.5 cm) with rounded scales.



\*Primarily in lower and middle elevations



Bark.



Needles.



Cones.



Needles on branch.

## Similar Species

**Mountain hemlock** (*Tsuga mertensiana*) occurs at higher elevations and has longer, uniform-length needles on bushier branches that are not arrayed in flat sprays; cones longer, oblong, 3-6 cm.

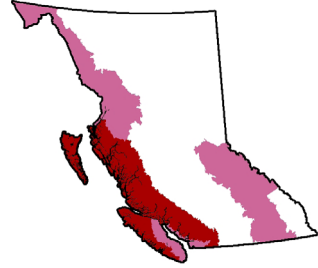
# Mountain Hemlock

*Tsuga mertensiana*

Ws55

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Top of tree nodding, branches forming bushy sprays.
- **Bark:** Greyish-brown, forming narrow plates.
- **Needles:** Medium-length, uniform in length, with woody pegs at the base that remain on the twig after the needles are shed.
- **Cones:** Medium-sized, oblong cones (3-6 cm) with rounded scales.



\*Primarily in upper elevations



Needles.



Cones.



Growth form.

## Similar Species

**Western hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla*) occurs at low to middle elevations and has shorter, variable-length needles on branches that are largely arrayed in flat sprays; cones shorter, egg-shaped, 1.5-2.5 cm.

# Barclay's Willow

*Salix barclayi*

Wf04

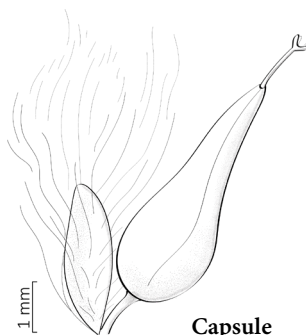
## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium-sized shrub (1-3 m). Twigs yellowish-green, short-hairy.
- **Leaves:** Elliptic, light green above, glaucous and nearly hairless below, margins finely toothed throughout.
- **Flowers:** Pistillate catkins stout, on leafy stalks 4-25 mm long, appearing with the leaves.
- **Fruits:** Capsules hairless, greenish, long and slender, with a long pointed beak.



© John D. Reynolds

Leaves.



Capsule



© Ryan Durand

Cone and leaves.



© Bennett

Fruits.



© Ryan Durand

Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Serviceberry willow** (*Salix pseudomonticola*) is a larger shrub that has broader leaves and well-developed stipules on its twigs; it has catkins that emerge before the leaves and are stalkless or on very short stalks (to 5 mm).

# Bebb's Willow

*Salix bebbiana*

Ws03

Fl07



## Key Characters

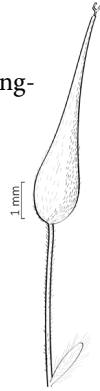
- **Growth form:** Often a large shrub, (0.5-10 m). Twigs pinkish to redish-brown.
- **Leaves:** Elliptic, soft-green above, glaucous below, often red-tinged when young; upper surface distinctly wrinkled.
- **Flowers:** Pistillate catkins elongate, appearing with the leaves, terminating in short leafy twigs.
- **Fruits:** Capsules long-stalked (stalks ca. as long as capsules), long-beaked, short-hairy.



Capsules.



Catkins.



Capsule



Capsules gone to seed.



Leaves.

## Similar Species

**Scouler's willow** (*Salix scouleriana*) usually has oblanceolate leaves and unstalked capsules; the pistillate catkins are unstalked and appear before the leaves in spring

**Pussy willow** (*Salix discolor*) also has unstalked pistillate catkins that appear before the leaves in spring; it has larger, darker green leaves with more contrasting pale undersides.

# Drummond's Willow

*Salix drummondiana*

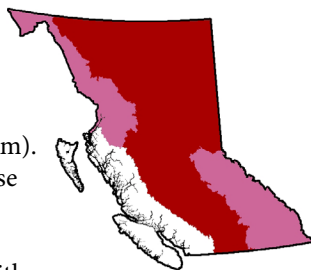
Ws04

Fl04

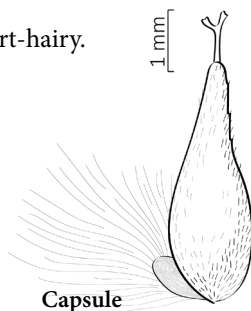
Fl05

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium to large shrub (1-5 m). Twigs are brittle and often covered in a dense whitish bloom when young.
- **Leaves:** Narrowly elliptic, pointed at both ends, lower surface densely white-woolly with scattered rusty hairs.
- **Flowers:** Pistillate catkins elongate, densely flowered, appearing before the leaves in spring, unstalked.
- **Fruits:** Capsules unstalked, beaked, short-hairy.



Leaves.



Catkins.



Capsules.

## Similar Species

**Sitka willow** (*Salix sitchensis*) usually has oblanceolate leaves with shinier, silky undersides.

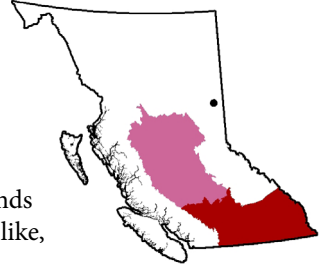
# Narrow Leaf Willow

*Salix exigua*

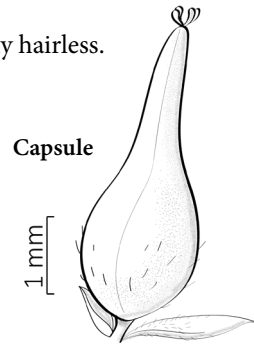
F106

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium to large shrub (0.5-6 m), of the southern interior of BC. Reproduces clonally, forming extensive stands of erect stems. Twigs are slender and whip-like, usually drooping.
- **Leaves:** Long, linear, densely whitish hairy on both surfaces; leaf margins entire to sharp-toothed.
- **Flowers:** Pistillate catkins slender, cylindrical, terminating long leafy twigs.
- **Fruits:** Capsules short-stalked, beaked, essentially hairless.



Leaves.



Capsules.



Capsules gone to seed.

## Similar Species

**Interior willow** (*Salix interior*) is similar in form and ecology to Narrow Leaf Willow, but occurs in northern and central B.C.; its leaves are green and nearly hairless above, and always have toothed margins.

**Dusky willow** (*Salix melanopsis*) occurs in a similar range and habitat to Narrow Leaf Willow; it has broader leaves that are green and hairless above.

# Pacific Willow

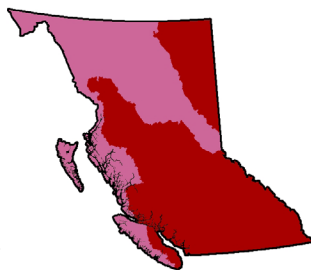
*Salix lasiandra*

Ws51

Fl03

## Key Characters

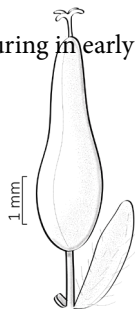
- **Growth form:** Large shrub to small tree (1-11 m). Twigs are yellow to yellow-ish green, brightest yellow in the winter.
- **Leaves:** Leaves glossy dark green above and strongly glaucous below, lanceolate with rounded bases and long-tapering tips; margins finely toothed. Several (usually 2) tiny, rounded glands present at junction of leaf blade and leaf stalk; leaf stalk usually greenish or yellowish.
- **Flowers:** Pistillate catkins appearing with the leaves in spring, on leafy stalks.
- **Fruits:** Capsules long-beaked, yellow-green, hairless; maturing in early summer.



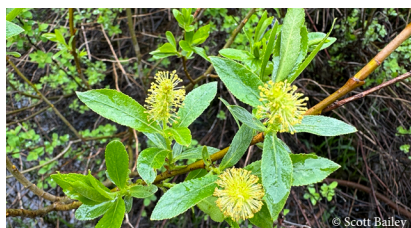
Leaves.



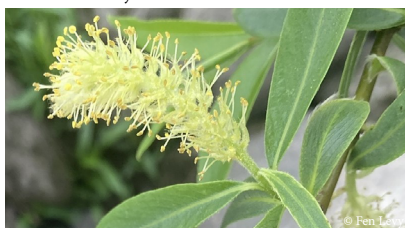
Glands at leaf junction.



Capsule



Catkins.



Capsules.

## Similar Species

**Autumn willow** (*Salix. serissima*) is restricted to the Peace region of northeastern B.C.; it has darker green, more leathery leaves, greener lower leaf surfaces, and reddish twigs and leaf stalks; its capsules mature in late summer/fall. Several introduced willows in southern B.C. are similar, but usually have tapering leaf bases and lack paired glands at the base of the leaf blade.

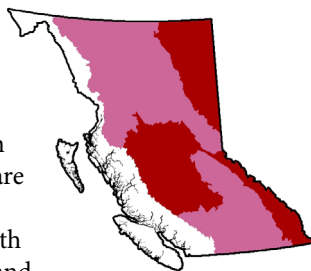
# MacCalla's Willow

*Salix maccalliana*

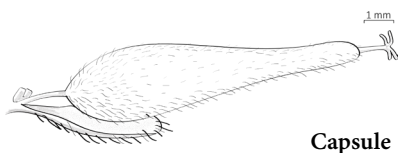
Ws05

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** A highly distinctive medium to large shrub to small tree (1-5 m). Twigs are stout, hairless and usually reddish.
- **Leaves:** Lanceolate to elliptic, pointed at both ends, thick and leathery, dark green above and paler green below (not glaucous), sharply toothed along the margins.
- **Flowers:** Pistillate catkins short and stout, on leafy twigs, appearing with or after leaf emergence.
- **Fruits:** Capsules very large (7-11 mm), long-beaked, short-hairy.



Leaves.



Capsule



Capsules gone to seed and reddish twigs.



Capsules.

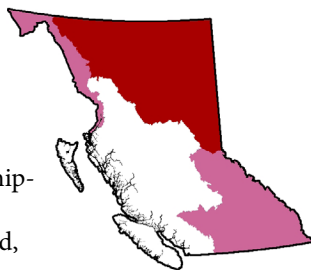
# Bilberry Willow

*Salix myrtillofolia*

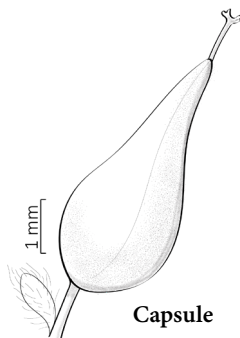
Wb06

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low, often creeping shrub (usually < 60 cm). Twigs are slender and whip-like, usually drooping.
- **Leaves:** Usually broad, oblong to egg-shaped, fine-toothed along entire margin, hairless, green on both surfaces.
- **Flowers:** Pistillate catkins elongate, loosely flowered, borne at the ends of short leafy branchlets.
- **Fruits:** Capsules short-stalked, green, hairless, with a long pointed beak; styles short (to 0.7 mm).



Leaves.



Leaves and capsules gone to seed.



Catkins.

## Similar Species

**Tall blueberry willow** (*Salix pseudomyrsinites*) is very similar but is less common; it is a larger shrub (to 4 m) with sparsely short-hairy mature leaves (at least on midrib), more prominent stipules, and longer styles (to 1.6 mm).

# Bog Willow

*Salix pedicellaris*

Wf02

Wf07

Wb06

Wb12

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low shrub (to 1.5 m) with erect branches.
- **Leaves:** Leaves oblong, rounded at both ends, strongly blue-toned, hairless on both surfaces, strongly glaucous below, with a pale midrib and numerous closely-spaced, parallel lateral veins.
- **Flowers:** Pistillate catkins short, egg-shaped to oblong, borne at the ends of short leafy branchlets.
- **Fruits:** Capsules long-stalked (stalks can be as long as capsules), hairless, reddish when mature, with a rounded beak.



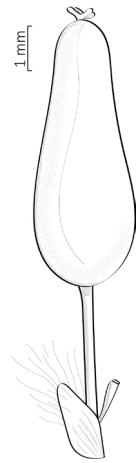
Leaves.



Capsules.



Capsules gone to seed.



Capsule

## Similar Species

**Grey-leaved willow** (*Salix glauca*) is a taller shrub (to 3 m) with densely silky-hairy leaves (at least on the lower surface), longer pistillate catkins, and unstalked, densely white-woolly capsules.

**Athabasca willow** is uncommon in northern B.C.; it is similar to Grey-leaved willow, but has scattered rusty hairs on the lower leaf surface.

# Sitka Willow

*Salix sitchensis*

Ws06

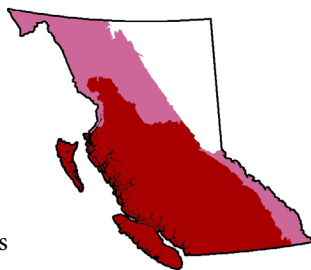
Ws51

Fl04

Fl50

## Key Characters

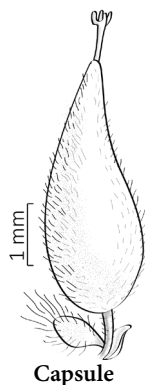
- **Growth form:** Large shrub (1-8 m). Twigs are short and hairy.
- **Leaves:** Leaves usually oblanceolate to obovate, shiny silky-hairy with whitish hairs beneath.
- **Flowers:** Elongate, densely flowered, appearing with the leaves in spring, on short leafy stalks. Staminate flowers with only one stamen (only BC species with that condition).
- **Fruits:** Capsules short-stalked, beaked, short-hairy.



Twigs and catkins.



Leaves.



Capsule



Capsules.

## Similar Species

**Drummond's willow** (*Salix drummondii*) has narrower oblanceolate to elliptic leaves that are white-woolly below (not silky or shiny).

**Scouler's willow** (*Salix scouleriana*) has similar leaf shape, but has lightly glaucous, sparsely hairy leaf undersides that lack silky, glossy hairs.

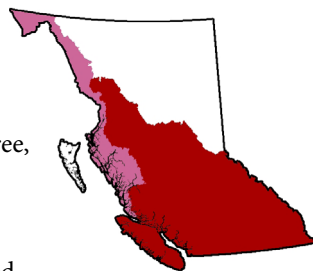
# Douglas Maple

*Acer glabrum*

Fm01

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Deciduous shrub or small tree, up to 10 m tall; stems branching. Twigs are slender and whip-line, usually drooping.
- **Leaves:** Leaves opposite, 2-12 cm wide, palmately 3-5 lobed, margins jagged toothed, paler on the lower surface.
- **Flowers:** Greenish-yellow, in small axillary clusters of up to 10 flowers.
- **Fruits:** Winged and in pairs, yellowish-brown to reddish, hairless, each with a single large, papery wing (= 'samara') that spreads in a 'V' or "U" when fruits still connected.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruits.



Branches.

## Similar Species

**Bigleaf maple** (*Acer macrophyllum*) is a large tree, with much larger, more deeply 5-lobed leaves, and bristly-hairy, brownish fruits; it is restricted to southwestern B.C.

**Vine maple** (*Acer circinatum*) is a medium-sized shrub to small tree of southwestern B.C.; it has 9-lobed leaves, and pairs of fruits with their wings wide-spreading when still connected.

# Mountain Alder

*Alnus incana*

Ws01

Ws02

Ws03

Ws06

Ws07

Ws09

Ws11

Fl01

Fl02

Fl03

Fm02

Fm03



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Deciduous shrub or tree up to 12 m tall, but usually 2-5 m tall.
- **Bark:** Smooth, greyish-brown, with whitish bumps ('lenticels'), often lichen-covered.
- **Leaves:** Leaves alternate, unlobed, ovate, margins coarsely to irregularly toothed bluntly double-toothed, lateral veins regular and evenly spaced. Margins of leaves flat.
- **Flowers:** Male flowers in drooping staminate catkins.
- **Fruits:** Small, egg-shaped, woody, cone-like catkins that are persistent through winter.



Leaf.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Sitka alder** (*A. alnobetula* subsp. *sinuata*) usually occurs at higher elevations (although much overlap); it is a smaller shrub with leaves that are sharply single to double toothed and longer, more slender stalks to the 'cones'.

**Red alder** (*Alnus rubra*) is strictly a coastal species; it is a taller tree with the margins of the leaves somewhat rolled under.

# Dwarf Birch

*Betula glandulosa*

Wf02

Wf07

Wb02

Wb05

Wb06

Wb07

Wb08

Wb09

Wb10

Wb11



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low to medium-sized shrub. Twigs are usually short-hairy (sometimes hairless) with numerous prominent warty glands.
- **Leaves:** Small (0.5-3 cm), nearly round to oval, with large blunt teeth along entire margin.
- **Flowers:** Male flowers in small, drooping catkins at branch tips.
- **Fruits:** Female catkins small (1-0.5 cm), erect, oblong to elongate, comprised of numerous 3-pronged scales and papery-winged seeds.

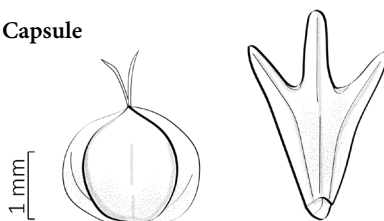


Leaves.



Leaves.

Capsule



Bark and leaf.



Catkin.

## Similar Species

**Swamp birch** (*Betula pumila*) is very similar and often occurs with dwarf birch, but differs in its larger size, hairless to sparsely hairy twigs, and larger leaves (2.5-6+ cm); these two species commonly hybridize, and many populations are difficult to identify with certainty.

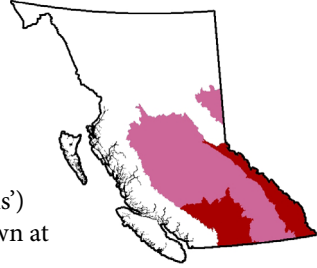
# Water Birch

*Betula occidentalis*

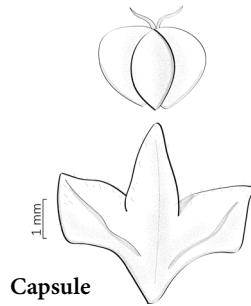
F107

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Large shrub to small tree (3-10 m tall), usually multi-stemmed.
- **Bark:** Dark brown with pale spots ('lenticels') when young, remaining dark purplish-brown at maturity.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, unlobed, ovate, rounded to sharp-pointed at the tip, usually doubly saw-toothed 1-7 cm long, leaf stalks more than 1 cm long.
- **Flowers:** Male flowers in drooping staminate catkins.
- **Fruits:** Female catkins small (2-3 cm), erect to drooping, cylindric, composed of numerous broadly 3-pronged scales and papery-winged seeds.



Growth form.



Capsule



Bark and leaves.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Paper birch** (*Betula papyrifera*) is generally a larger tree with a single main trunk, even when young; the bark is distinctly whitish, papery, and peeling when mature and the fruit scales are nearly cross-shape.

# Red-osier Dogwood

*Cornus sericea*

Ws03

Ws51

Fl02

Fl03

Fl04

Fl07

Fl51

Fm01

Fm02

Fm03

Fm50



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium-sized shrub 1-6 m tall. Young branches opposite. Twigs are red to reddish-purple, later turning greyish-green.
- **Leaves:** Opposite, short-stalked, egg-shaped with a pointed tip; veins distinctive, becoming parallel to the margins.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, produced in dense flat-topped clusters.
- **Fruits:** Berries small, white, single-seeded.



Bark.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

Highly distinctive; other dogwoods in B.C. lack the red twigs, have smaller, denser flower clusters backed by large, white, petal-like bracts, and are either herbaceous (i.e., bunchberries) or trees (i.e., *Cornus nuttallii*).

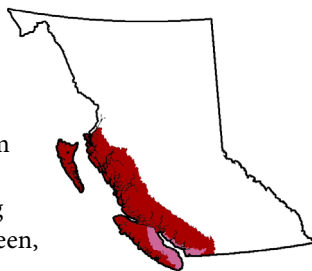
# Copperbush

*Elliottia pyroliflora*

Ws55

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium-sized shrub 0.5-2 m tall with stems erect.
- **Leaves:** Deciduous and alternate, appearing whorled but nearly stalkless. Leaves pale green, hairless, and covered with a waxy bloom, broadest near the tip and rounded, 1.5 cm long, 0.4-1 cm wide.
- **Flowers:** Flowers distinctive, with 5 spreading, salmon-coloured petals and a strongly recurved style.
- **Fruits:** Small, round capsules with a recurved style when young.



Growth form.

© John D. Reynolds



Fruit.

© John D. Reynolds



Flower.

© Trevor Van Loon

## Similar Species

**White-flowered Rhododendron** (*Rhododendron albiflorum*) is easily distinguished when flowering by its large, funnel-shaped, white corollas; when not flowering, it is distinguished by its shinier leaves with fine rusty hairs above.

**False-azalea** (*Rhododendron ferruginea*) is similar when not flowering, but has strongly skunky-scented leaves that are often blue-tinged.

# Salal

*Gaultheria shallon*

Ws54

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Creeping to erect evergreen shrub usually up to 1.5m tall, but up to 3m tall. May form dense thickets.
- **Leaves:** Broadly egg-shaped 3-9 cm long, 1.5-6.5 cm wide, leathery, dark green; leaf margins finely toothed.
- **Flowers:** Flowers produced along red, sticky-glandular stem tips. Corollas whitish to pale pink, almost globular; sepals red, sticky-glandular.
- **Fruits:** Berry-like, purplish-black, sticky-glandular, with a short, persistent style.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Evergreen Huckleberry** (*Vaccinium ovatum*) often occurs with Salal on Vancouver Island; it has smaller, narrower, more coarsely toothed leaves with more pointed apices and is not sticky-glandular in the inflorescence.

# Common Juniper

*Juniperus communis*

Wb52

Wb53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low, spreading coniferous shrub.
- **Leaves:** Needles abundant, dense, curved, sharp-pointed, with prominent white lines of stomata on upper surface.
- **Fruits:** Produces small, bluish-purple (when mature), fleshy, berry-like fruits.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Leaves.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

Highly distinctive; other species of *Juniperus* occur only in upland habitats and have scale-like (vs. needle-like) mature leaves.

# Black Twinberry

*Lonicera involucrata* var. *involucrata*

Ws01

Ws03

Ws07

Ws11

Ws51

Wb07

Fl01

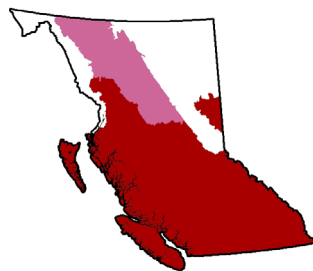
Fl02

Fl04

Fl05

Fm02

Fm50



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinctive deciduous to straggly shrub (0.5-5 m).
- **Leaves:** Opposite, short-stalked, lanceolate, apex pointed, 3-16 cm long, 2-8 cm wide.
- **Flowers:** Pairs, yellow, tubular, glandular; flower pairs backed by two large, glandular, reddish bracts.
- **Fruits:** Pairs of shiny black berries within retained reddish bracts.



Growth form and leaves.



Fruit.



Flowers.

# Sweet Gale

*Myrica gale*

Wf52

Wf53

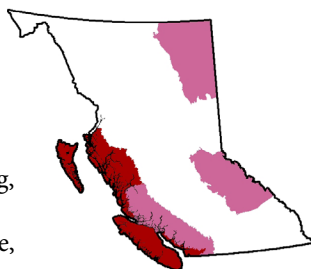
Wb50

Wb51

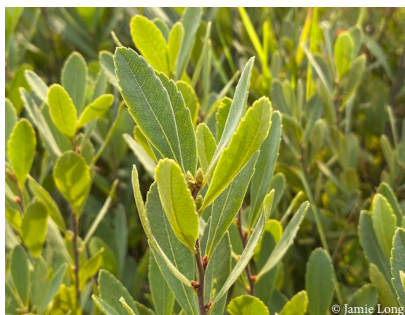
Wb52

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low to medium-sized shrub (0.5-2m). Twigs are finely hairy when young, glabrous when mature and dark reddish.
- **Leaves:** Strongly spicy-scented, oblanceolate, base long-tapering, apex rounded to blunt, margins coarsely toothed on outer half.
- **Flowers:** Male flowers produced in short, erect, coppery-brown, stalkless catkins with papery scales. Female catkins short, erect, yellowish-green, 'spiky', numerous on erect leafless stems.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Female flowers.



Male flowers.

## Similar Species

**Hardhack** (*Spirea douglasii*) can be similar to Sweet Gale when not fruiting or flowering; it is usually a larger shrub with larger, greener, unscented leaves with less strongly tapering bases.

# Devil's Club

*Oplopanax horridus*

Fm03

Fm50



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinct deciduous shrub; 1-3 m tall, branching. Stems thick, stout, few-branched, covered in numerous long, sharp prickles.
- **Leaves:** Clustered at the stem tips, very large, palmately lobed, with numerous sharp spines (especially along veins and the leaf stalk).
- **Flowers:** Small, greenish, in tall, erect, conical clusters at branch tips.
- **Fruits:** Bright red berries in tall, erect clusters.



Growth form.



Flower.



Stem with sharp prickles.



Berries.

# Labrador Tea

*Rhododendron groenlandicum*

Wb01

Wb02

Wb03

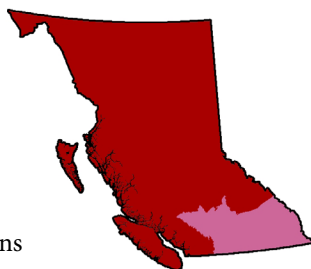
Wb05

Wb06

Wb08

Wb09

Wb11



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small, evergreen shrub (0.5-1.5 m), but can vary depending on conditions and may be stunted.
- **Leaves:** Oblong, leathery, margins rolled under (often strongly), underside with dense woolly, whitish (juvenile) or reddish (mature) hairs.
- **Flowers:** White, 5-petalled, in clusters at end of current years growth.
- **Fruits:** Small capsules; old fruits usually retained at end of previous year's growth.



Growth form.



Leaves with mature, woolly hairs.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Trapper's tea** (*Rhododendron. columbianum*) is similar, but is restricted to the southern interior; it has broader, flatter leaves with sparsely hairy, gland-dotted lower surfaces. These species are primarily distinguished by distribution and the underside of the leaves, as Trapper's Tea have white hairs on the underside of the leaves, rather than the the rusty colored hairs on Labrador tea.

# Stink Currant

*Ribes bracteosum*

Ws52

Fl51

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium-sized to tall shrub (to 3 m). Entire plant strongly skunky-scented; often detectable from several meters away.
- **Leaves:** Leaves large, palmately 5-7 lobed with pointed lobes.
- **Flowers:** White to greenish-white or bronzy, produced in long, erect clusters of 20-40.
- **Fruits:** Berries in long clusters, bluish-black with a strong whitish bloom, appearing pale blue.



Growth form and leaves.



Flower.



Fruit.

## Similar Species

**Thimbleberry** (*Rubus parviflorus*) is superficially similar when not flowering or fruiting, but has more broadly lobed leaves and is unscented.

**Trailing black currant** (*Ribes laxiflorum*) is a low, often trailing shrub with smaller 5-lobed leaves and smaller clusters of pinkish flowers; it is unscented.

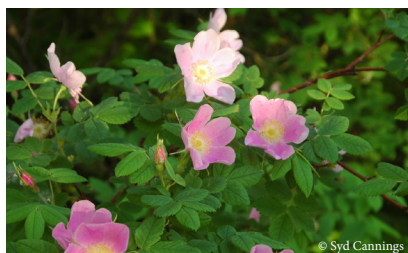
# Prickly Rose

*Rosa acicularis* ssp. *sayi*

Fm03

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small to medium-sized deciduous shrub (0.3-1.5 m). Main stems densely prickly with small, bristly prickles throughout, lacking larger paired prickles below the leaf nodes; outer twigs bristly-prickly.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, compound; leaflets 5-7, pale green, usually broadest at or below the midpoint, margins coarsely toothed and with stalked glands.
- **Flowers:** Light pink, solitary (rarely paired), with 5 large shallowly 2-lobed petals.
- **Fruits:** Rosehips, orange-red to red, pear-shaped to somewhat elongate, usually tapered at each end.



Growth form, flowers and leaves.



Prickly stems with fall foliage.



Flower.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Wood's rose** (*Rosa Woodsii*) has outer twigs lacking bristly prickles, has enlarged pairs of prickles below the leaf nodes, leaflets that are usually widest above the midpoint and lack glands along their toothed margins, flower clusters of 3-12 flowers, and rounder fruits.

**Nootka rose** (*Rosa nutkana*) lacks small, bristly stem prickles but has scattered larger, thick, flattened prickles.

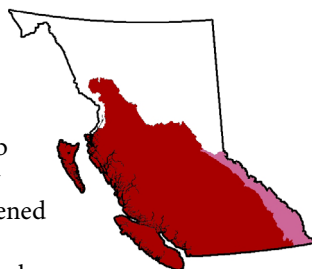
# Nootka Rose

*Rosa nutkana*

Fm01

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium-sized to large shrub (0.5-3 m). Main stems lacking small, bristly prickles but with scattered large, stout, flattened prickles.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, compound; leaflets 5-7, pale green, usually broadest at or below the midpoint, margins coarsely toothed and with stalked glands.
- **Flowers:** Light pink, solitary (rarely paired), with 5 large shallowly 2-lobed petals.
- **Fruits:** Large rosehips, orange-red to red, nearly globular.



Growth form, flower and leaves.



Stem with prickles.



Flower.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Wood's rose** (*Rosa woodsia*) has bristly-prickly stems and branches with scattered pairs of enlarged pairs of prickles below the leaf bases, leaflets that are usually broadest above the midpoint, and flowers and fruits in clusters of 3-12.

**Prickly rose** (*Rosa acicularis*) has fully bristly-prickly stems and twigs, lacks large stout prickles, and has smaller, pear-shaped to elongate fruits.



OPEN WATER  
SHUSWAP REGION  
© KENDALL MCLAUGHLIN

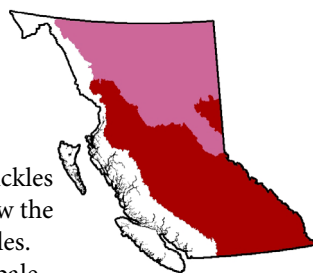
# Wood's Rose

*Rosa woodsii*

F107

## Key Characters

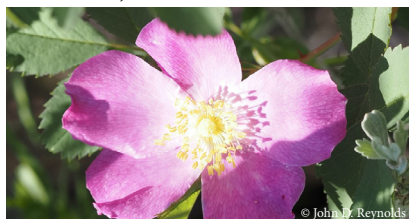
- **Growth form:** Medium-sized shrub. Main stems densely prickly with small, bristly prickles throughout and larger, paired prickles below the leaf nodes; outer twigs lacking bristly prickles.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, compound; leaflets 5-7, pale green to blue-green, usually broadest above the midpoint, margins coarsely toothed and lacking glands.
- **Flowers:** Light pink, in clusters of 3-12, with 5 large shallowly 2-lobed petals.
- **Fruits:** Rosehips, orange-red to red, nearly globular to somewhat pear-shaped.



Growth form, flowers and leaves.



Stems with prickles.



Flower.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Prickly rose** (*Rosa acicularis*) has bristly-prickly stems and outer twigs that lack enlarged pairs of prickles, leaflets that are widest at or below midpoint and have small glands along their toothed margins, solitary (rarely paired) flowers, and more elongate fruits.

**Nootka rose** (*Rosa nutkana*) lacks small, bristly stem prickles but has scattered large, thicker, flattened prickles, and produces solitary (rarely paired) flowers.

# Thimbleberry

*Rubus parviflorus*

Fl51

Fm03

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinctive medium-sized shrub (1-2.5 m), often thicket-forming. Twigs lack prickles.
- **Bark:** Light brown to grey and flaking-off when mature.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, large, palmately 5-7 lobed.
- **Flowers:** Relatively large, with 5 rounded white petals; flower stalks glandular-hairy.
- **Fruits:** Raspberry-like (but somewhat flatter), soft, red, subtended by 5 spreading sepals, easily detached from the receptacle when ripe.



Growth form with flowers.



Leaf.



Fruit.



Fruit.

# Salmonberry

*Rubus spectabilis*

Ws51

Ws52

Ws53

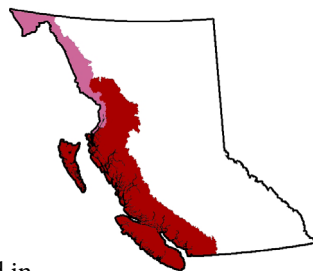
Ws54

Ws55

Fl50

Fl51

Fm50



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinctive medium-sized shrub (1-4 m), often forming dense thickets with erect stems. Twigs are covered in fine, bristly prickles.
- **Bark:** Light brown.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, dark green, with 3 coarsely toothed leaflets.
- **Flowers:** 5 large petals, spreading, bright magenta-pink. Appear in early spring, before the leaves.
- **Fruits:** Raspberry-like, soft, juicy, yellow to red or purplish-red (often on the same shrub); fruits ripen in early summer.



Leaves.



Stem with prickles.



Flower.



Fruit.

# Coastal Red Elderberry

*Sambucus racemosa* var. *arborescens*

Ws52

Ws53

Fl02

Fm03

Fm50



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Large shrub to small tree (1-6 m). Twigs are prominent raised bumps and a large, spongy pith.
- **Leaves:** Opposite, large, pinnate with 5-7 lance-shaped leaflets; leaflet margins coarsely toothed.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, numerous in egg-shaped clusters that are longer than wide.
- **Fruits:** Produces rounded or oblong clusters of small, shiny, bright red berries.



Growth form.



Fruits.



Leaves and fruits.

## Similar Species

**Black-berried elderberry** (*Sambucus racemosa* var. *melanocarpa*) occurs at higher elevations in the southern interior and has rounded flower/fruit clusters that are as wide as long, as well as black berries. It occurs in similar environments as Red Elderberry, and they sometimes intergrade.

**Blue elderberry** (*Sambucus cerulea*) is a small tree of upland habitats; it has larger, flat clusters of flowers and small, pale blue berries.

# Hardhack

*Spiraea douglasii*

Ws01

Ws02

Ws09

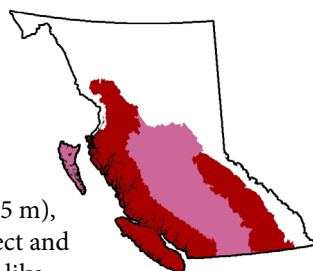
Ws11

Ws50

Ws51

Wf52

Wm50



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Medium-sized shrub (0.5-2.5 m), often forming dense thickets with stems erect and very branched. Twigs are slender and whip-like, usually drooping.
- **Bark:** Reddish-brown, woolly.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, oblong, with coarsely toothed margins towards the tip; lower surface paler and often grey-woolly.
- **Flowers:** Small, pink, produced in erect, conical clusters at the branch tips.
- **Fruits:** Small brown capsules; remain on the stem throughout the winter following seed dispersal.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Fruits (left) and flowers (right).

## Similar Species

**Subalpine spiraea** (*Spiraea splendens*) is occasional at high elevations in southern B.C.; it is a smaller shrub with smaller, flat-topped clusters of pink flowers. Other *Spiraea* species have white to pinkish-white flowers.

**Sweet gale** (*Myrica gale*) has hairless, blue-tinged leaves with a long-tapering base; the leaves are strongly spicy-scented.

# Common Snowberry

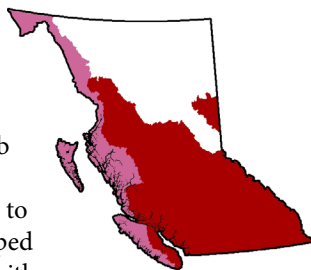
*Symphoricarpos albus*

Fl07

Fm01

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small to medium sized shrub (0.5–3m).
- **Leaves:** Opposite, short-stalked, light green to blue-green, margins entire, usually egg-shaped and unlobed but leaves of vigorous shoots with deep, rounded, irregular lobing.
- **Flowers:** Small, bell-shaped with the mouth not flaring, pinkish, in small clusters at the base of outer leaves, interior of flower with dense cottony hairs; style and stamens not extending from mouth of flower.
- **Fruits:** Large, globular, white berries with a spongy texture; persistent through winter.



© John D. Reynolds

Growth form and leaves.



© Trevor Van Loon

Flowers.



© Ryan Durand

Flowers.



© John D. Reynolds

Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Western snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*) is very similar, but has more blue-tinged leaves and the mouth of the flowers is flaring and with the style and stamens extended; these species are best identified when in flower. This species occurs only in the interior of B.C.

# Alaska Blueberry

*Vaccinium alaskaense*

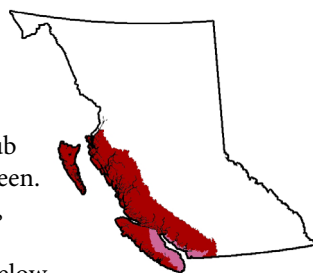
Ws10

Ws54

Ws55

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small to medium-sized shrub (0.5-2 m). Twigs are greenish to reddish-green.
- **Leaves:** Usually widest below the midpoint, blunt-tipped, sparsely toothed along the margins, sparsely glandular along midrib below.
- **Flowers:** Corollas broadly urn-shaped, bronzy-pink, about as long as wide. Flowers appear with the leaves in spring.
- **Fruits:** Bluish-black, with little or no pale bloom.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flower.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Oval-leaved blueberry** (*Vaccinium ovalifolium*) is very similar but also occurs in the interior of B.C.; in that species, the flowers appear before the leaves in spring, the corollas are white to pale pink and longer than wide, the leaves are more oval and are widest around the midpoint, the leaf margins are smooth, the midrib lacks glands, and the fruits are pale blue with a strong whitish bloom.

**Black huckleberry** (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) has leaves with a more sharply acute apex and finely, densely small toothed margins.

# Oval-leaved Blueberry

*Vaccinium ovalifolium*

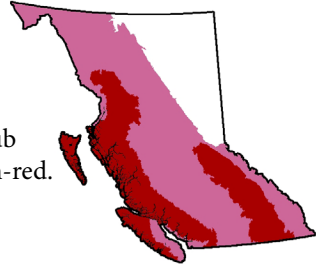
Ws09

Ws10

Ws11

Ws54

Ws55



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small to medium-sized shrub (0.4-2 m). Twigs are usually red or greenish-red.
- **Leaves:** Leaves usually widest around the midpoint, blunt-round tipped, margins untoothed.
- **Flowers:** Corollas narrowly urn-shaped, white to pale pinkish, longer than wide. Flowers appear before the leaves in spring.
- **Fruits:** Fruits pale blue, with a strong pale bloom.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruit.

## Similar Species

**Alaska blueberry** (*Vaccinium alaskaense*) is very similar, but is restricted to coastal areas; in that species, the flowers appear with the leaves in spring, the corollas are bronzy-pink and about as long as wide, the leaves are widest below the midpoint, the leaf margins are usually sparsely toothed, the midrib is sparsely glandular below, and the fruits are bluish-black with a little or no whitish bloom.

**Black huckleberry** (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) has leaves with a more sharply acute apex and finely, densely small toothed margins, as well as shiny black berries.

# Highbush Cranberry

*Viburnum edule*

Fm02

Fm03



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small to medium-sized shrub 0.5-3.5m tall, sprawling to an erect shrub.
- **Leaves:** Opposite, shallowly 3-lobed, with regularly toothed margins.
- **Flowers:** White, in small rounded clusters terminating in short, leafy lateral branchlets.
- **Fruits:** Bright red, juicy, with a single large, lens-shaped seed; fruits remain on plants throughout the winter and into the following spring.



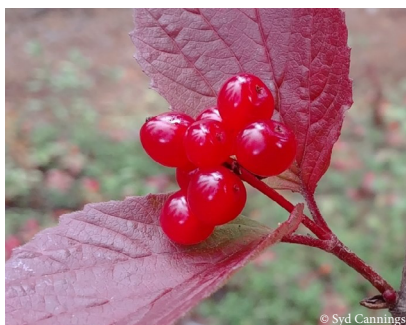
Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**American bush-cranberry** (*Viburnum opulus*) is a larger shrub that is infrequent in the BC interior; it has larger inflorescences with greatly enlarged sterile flowers around their margins; its leaves have longer, narrower lobes with more coarsely toothed margins.

# Bog Rosemary

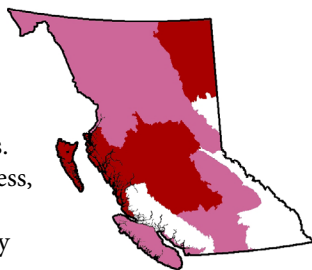
*Andromeda polifolia*

Wf10

Wb02

Wb12

Wb52



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small shrub with erect stems.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, evergreen, leathery, hairless, linear or lanceolate and with the margins strongly rolled under, underside with a waxy white coating.
- **Flowers:** Small clusters at stem tips, pinkish to nearly white, urn-shaped, long-stalked, often nodding.
- **Fruits:** Small, erect, pinkish-red, 5-lobed capsules.



Growth form.



Flowers.



Leaves.

## Similar Species

**Western bog-laurel** (*Kalmia microphylla*) has larger, brighter pink, cup-shaped flowers with triangular bumps on the outside of the corolla, as well as broader, elliptic leaves.

# Crowberry

*Empetrum nigrum*

Wb04

Wb07

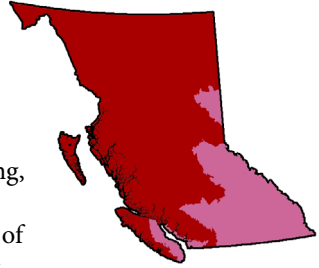
Wb51

Wb52

Wb53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Evergreen low shrub; stems can be trailing and branching, 15-30 cm long, stems hairy.
- **Leaves:** Evergreen, short, usually in whorls of 4, margins rolled under, resembling conifer.
- **Flowers:** Tiny, short-stalked, inconspicuous, reddish-purple, in small groups in leaf axils.
- **Fruits:** Shiny, black, spherical berries in small clusters.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Mountain-heathers** (*Phyllodoce* spp.) have similar conifer-like leaves, but are slightly large plants with longer leaves and clusters of long-stalked, urn-shaped, nodding, pink or yellowish-white flowers at the stem tips; the fruits are small capsules, and one species (*P. glanduliflora*) is densely sticky-glandular throughout the inflorescence.

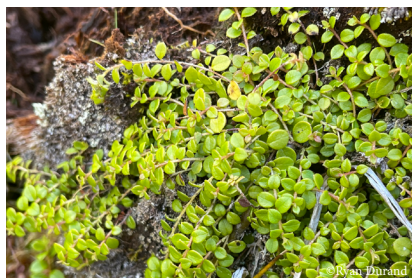
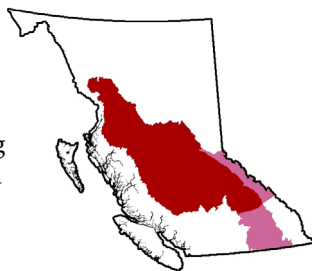
# Creeping Wintergreen

*Gaultheria hispidula*

Wb01

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Mat forming; stems creeping 10-40 cm long, thread-like, densely covered with coarse, appressed, rusty-brown hairs.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, small (4-10 mm long), evergreen, leathery, egg-shaped or elliptic, margins rolled under and without teeth, with scattered coarse rusty hairs on both surfaces.
- **Flowers:** Few, tiny, inconspicuous, solitary in leaf axils, bell-shaped, with 4 fused petals, whitish, sepals coarsely brown-hairy. Usually not evident from above.
- **Fruits:** Berry-like, small, oblong, white, with scattered coarse rusty-brown hairs; fruits have a faint wintergreen flavor when eaten.



Growth form.



Fruits.



Leaves.

## Similar Species

**Twinflower** (*Linnaea borealis*) is somewhat similar when not flowering or fruiting, but has larger, oblanceolate leaves and lacks coarse reddish-brown hairs on the stems, leaves, and sepals.

# Western Bog Laurel

*Kalmia microphylla* var. *occidentalis*

Wf50

Wb02

Wb04

Wb10

Wb12

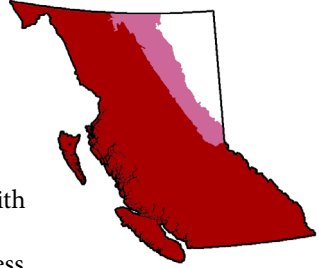
Wb13

Wb50

Wb51

Wb52

Wb53



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low shrub (10-50 cm tall) with erect branched stems.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, evergreen, leathery, hairless, narrowly egg-shaped to elliptic with tapering bases, shiny dark green above and with a waxy white coating below.
- **Flowers:** Clusters at stem tips, pink, shallowly cup-shaped with fused petals, stamens tucked into pockets on inside of corolla when young; unopened flowers with a series of hooked or triangular bumps along outer surface of corolla.
- **Fruits:** Small, reddish-brown, 5-lobed capsules at end of previous year's growth.



Growth form.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Bog-rosemary** (*Andromeda polifolia*) has narrower, almost linear leaves that are strongly inrolled, as well as smaller urn-shaped flowers.

**Labrador tea** (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*) is similar when not flowering, but its leaves are densely hairy below (white-hairy when young, rusty-hairy when mature).

# Cloudberry

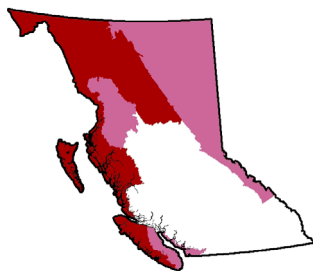
*Rubus chamaemorus*

Wb02

Wb03

Wb04

Wb51



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small (5-30 cm); stems unbranched usually buried in the substrate, plant appearing herbaceous.
- **Leaves:** 1-3 per flowering stem, alternate, shallowly palmately 5-lobed with rounded lobes, margins blunt-toothed, green and smooth to thinly hairy above, paler and hairier below, especially on the veins.
- **Flowers:** Solitary at stem tip, with 4 or 5 spreading white petals alternating with triangular green sepals; stamens numerous, yellowish.
- **Fruits:** Raspberry-like, yellowish to orange or orange-red, subtended by persistent sepals.



Fruit.



Growth form.



Flower.

## Similar Species

**Arctic raspberry** (*Rubus arcticus*) is similar in size and structure, but usually has trifoliate leaves (sometimes palmately lobed), magenta-pink petals, and dark red raspberry-like fruits.

# Bog Cranberry

*Vaccinium oxycoccos*



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low shrub, with thread-like, creeping, woody stems (15-50 cm long).
- **Leaves:** Alternate, small (to 1 cm), evergreen, leathery, elliptic and sharp-pointed, margins rolled under, shiny dark green above, grey-waxy below.
- **Flowers:** Long-stalked (stalks short-hairy), held erect above the substrate, drooping; petals pink and strongly reflexed, stamens and style protruding as a slender cone.
- **Fruits:** Slightly elongate, red berries (cranberries), persistent through winter.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flower.



Fruit.

## Similar Species

**Serviceberry willow** (*Salix pseudomonticola*) is a larger shrub that has broader leaves and well-developed stipules on its twigs; it has catkins that emerge before the leaves and are stalkless or on very short stalks (to 5 mm).

# Bog Blueberry

*Vaccinium uliginosum*

Wb52

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low shrub, sometimes prostrate, stems 10-30 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Blue-tinged, often circular or oval (sometimes oblong to obovate).
- **Flowers:** Petals pinkish, fused into a nearly globular, urn-shaped corolla.
- **Fruits:** Berries pale blue, covered in a waxy bloom, globular.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Dwarf blueberry** (*Vaccinium cespitosum*) is a similarly low blueberry that may occur in boggy wetlands; it has greener, oblanceolate leaves and narrower, more elongate corollas.

# Lingonberry

*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*

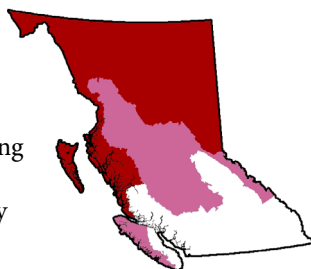
Wb03

Wb06

SHRUBS  
DWARF SHRUB

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low shrub, often mat-forming with stems 5-25 cm long.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, evergreen, leathery, shiny bright green, hairless, oblong with rounded tips, margins rolled under.
- **Flowers:** Either one or several bell-shaped, whitish to pinkish flowers in small clusters at stem tips; stalks glandular.
- **Fruits:** Bright red, spherical berries with persistent sepals; similar in appearance and flavor to cranberries.



Growth form.



Flowers.



Fruits and leaves.

## Similar Species

**Kinnikinnick** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) is similar, but has darker green oblanceolate leaves, pink urn-shaped flowers, and non-glandular flower stalks; the red berries are dry and mealy, and lack persistent sepals.

RETURN  
TO TOC





# FORBS

FLOWERING PLANTS ADAPTED TO WET SOILS

HERBACEOUS PLANTS | AQUATIC PLANTS

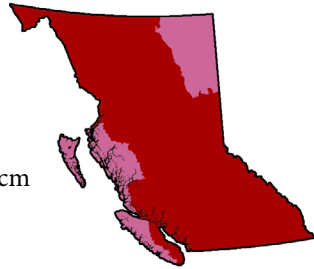
# Baneberry

*Actaea rubra*

Fm03

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb from woody stem-base with 1 to several stems, 40-100 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Long-stalked, 2x to 3x compound; leaflets egg-shaped, sharply and irregularly toothed.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, in a tight, rounded cluster at the top of the stem; flowers reduced, stamens elongate and giving the inflorescence a 'bottlebrush' appearance.
- **Fruits:** Shiny, bright red or white berries on long stalks.
- Highly toxic.



Growth form and flowers.

© John D. Reynolds



Leaves.

© John D. Reynolds



Fruits.

© John D. Reynolds

## Similar Species

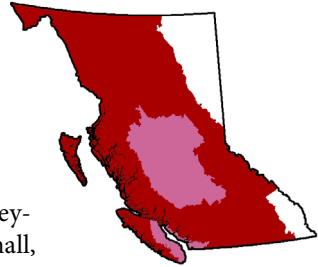
**Goat's-beard** (*Aruncus dioicus*) has similar leaves, but is a larger plant and produces large, branching inflorescences of small, white flowers; the fruits are small, dry follicles.

# White Mountain Marsh Marigold

*Caltha leptosepala*

Wf12

Wf13



## Key Characters

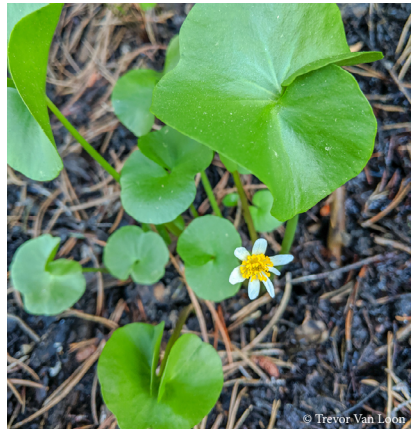
- **Growth form:** Perennial herb from short, thick stem-base, 5-40 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Mostly basal, heart-shaped to kidney-shaped with rounded tips, margins with small, rounded teeth; basal leaf lobes sometimes overlapping.
- **Flowers:** Usually 1-2 per stem (rarely 3-4), terminal atop long stalks; petal-like sepals 6-12, narrowly oblong, white, outer surface blue-tinged; stamens numerous, yellow.
- **Fruits:** Erect follicles, in dense clusters of 4-5. Flowers in early spring, often while snow still remains.



Growth form.



Flower.



Leaves.

## Similar Species

**Globeflower** (*Trollius albiflorus*) has broader petal-like sepals that lack a blue-tinge on the outer surface; the leaves are deeply palmately divided into 5-7 toothed lobes.

**Deer-cabbage** (*Nephrhyllidium crista-galli*), has similar leaves to *Caltha*, but produces taller, erect stems topped by branched inflorescences of smaller flowers with 5 spreading, ruffle-margined, waxy-textured petals.

# Douglas' Water Hemlock

*Cicuta douglasii*

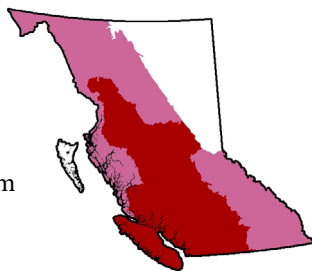
Wm02

Wm05

Wm50

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with solitary to a few stems and usually branched, 0.5-2 m tall. Stems chambered at the base when cut longitudinally.
- **Leaves:** Basal and along the stem, twice-compound; leaflets lanceolate, sharp-toothed.
- **Flowers:** Tiny, white, in flat-topped or rounded clusters (umbels) at ends of branches.
- **Fruits:** Small, egg-shaped to nearly spherical, 2-parted, ribbed, in clusters at ends of umbel ribs.
- **Highly toxic.**



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Water-parsnip** (*Sium suave*) has once-compound leaves with narrower, often nearly linear leaflets or (in early leaves) highly dissected leaflets; it lacks the chambered stem base.

**Angelicas** (*Angelica spp.*), are usually larger, coarser plants with larger leaves that have inflated clasping stalks, as well as often larger umbels of flowers.

# Enchanter's Nightshade

*Circaea alpina* ssp. *alpina*

FI51



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb from slender rhizome; stems erect 10-50 cm tall and forming extensive colonies.
- **Leaves:** Opposite, stalked, blades heart-shaped, margins toothed, 2-6 cm long entire to toothed and shortly-hairy on the lower surface with tips pointed.
- **Flowers:** Erect, elongate, often branched clusters at the stem tip and from the leaf axils; flowers small, white, with 2 notched petals alternating with 2 egg-shaped white sepals.
- **Fruits:** Small, pear-shaped capsules; surface densely hooked-hairy.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Stream violet** (*Viola glabella*) has similarly heart-shaped leaves, but the leaves are alternate and the flowers are larger, yellow, and produced singly.

# Marsh Cinquefoil

*Comarum palustre*

Wm01

Wm02

Wm51

Wm052

Wf02

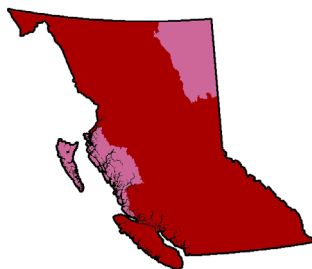
Wf07

Wf51

Wb05

Wb08

Wb11



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinct perennial, forms long-creeping and often floating rhizomes; stems prostrate to ascending, 20-100 cm long/tall, frequently reddish below. Aquatic or terrestrial herb; stems often reddish, sometimes submerged in water with only leaves and flowering stems emerging.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, compound, with 5-7 oblong leaflets 2-8 cm long; leaflets blue-green, margins coarsely toothed.
- **Flowers:** Dark purplish-red, sepals larger and petal-like, petals smaller and narrower than sepals; center of flower a conical cluster of red ovaries (strawberry-like) covered in bristly styles.
- **Fruits:** Small, seed-like, reddish, clustered in a hard, strawberry-like head surrounded by erect, inflated sepals.



© Colin Jones

Flowers amongst lily pads.



© Syd Cannings

Leaves.



© John D. Reynolds

Flowers.

# Three Leaved Goldthread

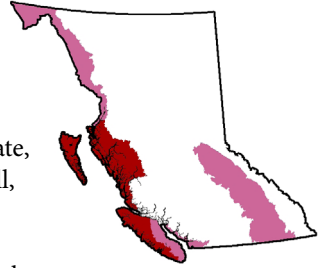
*Coptis trifolia*

Wb07

Wb51

Wb52

Wb53



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinct, small, delicate, perennial herb with stems erect 3-12 cm tall, growing from yellow to orange rhizome.
- **Leaves:** Basal, evergreen, leathery, long-stalked, trifoliate; leaflets egg-shaped, coarsely toothed, teeth with minute spines at their tips.
- **Flowers:** Solitary atop long stalk, with 5-6 spreading white petal-like sepals; petals small, reduced, yellow, club-shaped; stamens numerous.
- **Fruits:** 4-7 spreading, long-stalked follicles.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

# Great Sundew

*Drosera anglica*

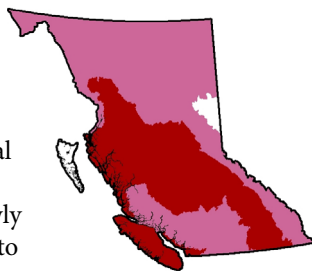
Wb12

Wb13

Wf10

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small, carnivorous, perennial herb with erect stems 5-18 cm.
- **Leaves:** Basal, paddle-shaped; blade narrowly oblanceolate with a rounded tip, grading into the leaf stalk, densely covered in red hairs that are topped by a single droplet of sticky fluid.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, in clusters of 2-12 atop an erect, leafless stem; usually only 1 flower opening at a time, beginning with the lowest flower.
- **Fruits:** Small capsules.



Flowers.



Growth form.



Leaves.

## Similar Species

**Round-leaved sundew** (*Drosera rotundifolia*) often occurs with *Drosera anglica*; it is smaller and the leaf blades are circular and sharply differentiated from the leaf stalk.

# Round Leaved Sundew

*Drosera rotundifolia*

Wb50

Wb52

Wb53

Wf50

Wf53



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Small, carnivorous, perennial herb 5-25 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Basal, paddle-shaped; blade circular, abruptly differentiated from the leaf stalk, densely covered in red hairs that are topped by a single droplet of sticky fluid.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, in clusters of 2-15 atop an erect, leafless stem; usually barely opening.
- **Fruits:** Small capsules.



Flowers.



Leaves.



Growth form.

## Similar Species

**Great sundew** (*Drosera anglica*) often occurs with *D. rotundifolia*; it is larger and the leaf blades are narrowly oblanceolate and grade into the leaf stalk.



FEN  
COMOX VALLEY  
© KENDALL McLAUGHLIN

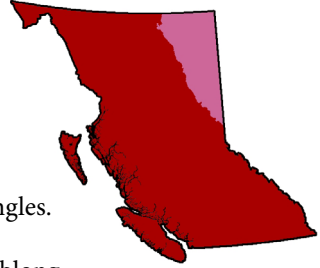
# Small Bedstraw

*Galium trifidum* ssp. *trifidum*

Wm50

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Delicate herb; stems weak, usually trailing or clambering, square in x-section, with hooked bristles along the angles. Stems 10-25 cm.
- **Leaves:** Whorls of 4-6, linear to narrowly oblong.
- **Flowers:** Tiny, white, 3-petalled, in clusters of 2-3 atop long, slender stalks.
- **Fruits:** Pairs of tiny, smooth, spherical nutlets.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Marsh bedstraw** (*Galium palustre*) is uncommon in B.C.; it is larger and more erect than small bedstraw, with often broader leaves and larger, 4-petaled flowers in larger, branching inflorescences.

**Labrador bedstraw** (*Galium labradoricum*) is rare in NE B.C.; it is similar in size to small bedstraw, but has more erect stems and 4-petaled flowers.

# Cow Parsnip

*Heracleum maximum*

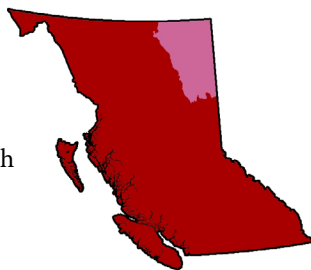
Fl01

Fl02

Fl50

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Tall perennial, 1-3 m tall with robust, sparingly branched stems that often remain standing the following the growing season.
- **Leaves:** Large (to 50 cm long), compound, usually hairy, with 3 coarsely toothed/lobed leaflets; leaf stalks inflated, strongly sheathing the stem.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, in large flat-topped clusters (umbels) at stem tips.
- **Fruits:** Flattened, egg-shaped, winged, splitting into 2 papery scales at maturity.



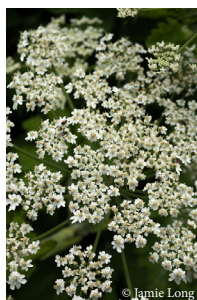
Growth form.



Leaves.



Flower.



Flower.



Fruit.

## Similar Species

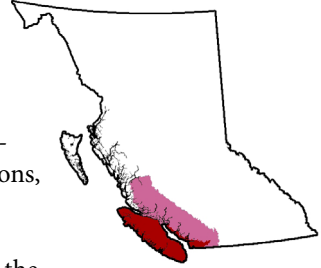
**Giant hogweed** (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is occasional in SW B.C., and is an invasive exotic species in the province; it is much larger (to 4.5 m tall), with larger (to 3 m long), more coarsely and deeply lobed/toothed leaflets.

# Bog St. John's Wort

*Hypericum anagalloides*

Wb52

Wb53



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb low and mat-forming with freely rooting and matted solons, stems numerous, 3-25 cm.
- **Leaves:** Opposite, small (4-15 mm long), stalkless, egg-shaped to elliptic, rounded at the tips.
- **Flowers:** Small (to 6 mm across), yellow, 5-petalled, short-stalked, solitary at branch tips; stamens numerous.
- **Fruits:** Small, rounded to egg-shaped capsules.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

Several other small-flowered *Hypericum* species occur in SW B.C., but these are all taller, erect species with open, branched inflorescences (when mature).

# Leatherleaf Saxifrage

*Leptarrhena pyrolifolia*

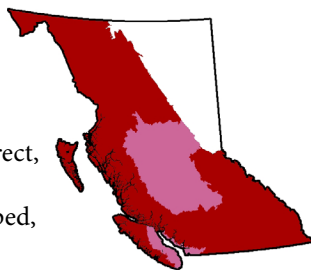
Wf03

Wf12

Wf13

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with stems erect, 10-40 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Thick, leathery, evergreen, egg-shaped, margins with shallow blunt teeth; leaves usually relatively appressed to the substrate.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, in rounded or egg-shaped clusters atop leafless stems. Early flowering.
- **Fruits:** Bright red, paired follicles in open, branched clusters; highly conspicuous and long-persistent.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flower.



Fruit.

# Skunk Cabbage

*Lysichiton americanus*

Wm50

Ws01

Ws09

Ws10

Ws11

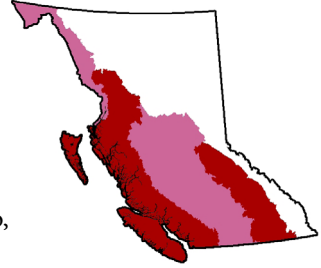
Ws51

Ws52

Ws53

Ws54

Ws55



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial semi-aquatic herb, 30-70 cm tall, but often beyond 1.5 m tall. Emerges in early spring, sometimes before snow has melted; entire plant with skunky odour.
- **Leaves:** Large (up to 1.5 m long when fruiting), oblong, rubbery in texture, leaf stalk channeled on upper side.
- **Flowers:** Produced in a stout, erect spike of small flowers surrounded by a bright yellow hood (spathe).



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

# False Lily of the Valley

*Maianthemum dilatatum*

Fl50

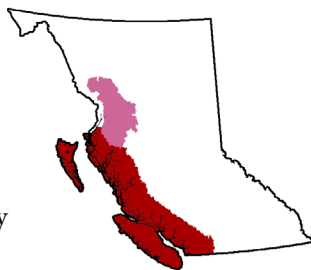
Fm50

Ws52

Ws53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with stems erect and unbranched 10-35 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Few (2-3), alternate, simple, broadly heart-shaped, stalked; sterile, deeply heart-shaped leaves often abundant and forming a carpet.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, in erect elongate, unbranched clusters; petals tiny, strongly recurved.
- **Fruits:** Spherical berries, initially firm and pale pink with red or brown speckling, eventually red and soft.



Growth form.



Flower.



Fruit.



Fruit.

## Similar Species

**Three-leaved false solomon's-seal** (*Maianthemum trifolium*) is restricted to NE and C B.C.; it usually occurs in bogs and fens, and has unstalked leaves with tapered bases.

# Buckbean

*Menyanthes trifoliata*

Wm51

Wb11

Wb13

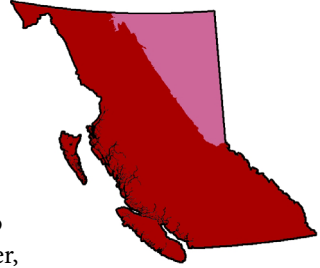
Wf06

Wf07

Wf08

Wf10

Wf11



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial semi-aquatic herb with a thick rhizome often in standing water, stems prostrate or ascending, 15-40 cm long/tall. Often only the leaves and flowers emerging.
- **Leaves:** Composed of 3 oblong or egg-shaped leaflets; leaflets held upright.
- **Flowers:** Oblong clusters atop erect, emergent stems; flowers with 5-6 spreading, narrow petals; inner surface of petals with long, dense, white hairs.
- **Fruits:** Egg-shaped capsules.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flower.



Fruit.

# Deer-cabbage

*Nephrophyllidium crista-galli*

Wb52

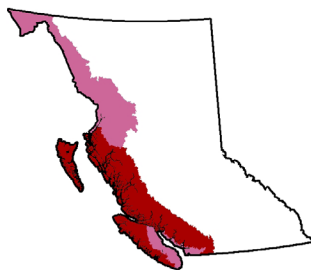
Wb53

Wf50

Ws55

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with stems growing from a thick rhizome. Stems erect, unbranched, 10-50 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** All basal, long-stalked, kidney-shaped and with strongly overlapping basal lobes, margins coarsely toothed.
- **Flowers:** Branched clusters at the stem tips; branches ascending; flowers with 5 large, white, spreading to recurved petals, with ruffled margins and a firm, waxy texture.
- **Fruits:** Small, conical to egg-shaped capsules.



Leaves.

© John D. Reynolds



Growth form.

© Lynda Stevens



Flowers.

© Lynda Stevens

## Similar Species

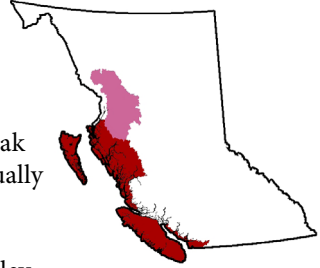
**White mountain marsh marigold** (*Caltha leptosepala*) has similar leaves, but its flowers have 6-12 petal-like sepals and are borne singly at the top of long stalks, with only 1-2 flowers per plant.

# Pacific Water Parsley

*Oenanthe sarmentosa*

Ws50

Wm50



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with soft, weak stems that are loosely branched that are usually trailing or clambering, often reclining to ascending and up to 1 m long.
- **Leaves:** Dark green, twice-compound, parsley-like, oblong or egg-shaped in outline, usually persistent through winter; leaflets rather broad, with pointed tips and jagged-toothed margins.
- **Flowers:** Tiny, white, numerous in long-stalked, flat-topped clusters (umbels) at branch tips.
- **Fruits:** Reddish, barrel-shaped, 2-parted, ribbed; in prickly, spherical clusters at ends of umbel ribs.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Douglas' water hemlock** (*Cicuta douglasii*) has erect, often purple-tinged stems, narrower leaflets, and transversely channelled stem bases (when cut longitudinally). Highly toxic.

**Angelicas** (*Angelica spp.*) are larger, erect plants with larger leaves with inflated clasping stalks, as well as larger umbels of flowers at the top of the stem.

# Mountain Sweet Cicely

*Osmorhiza berteroi*

Fm02

Fm03

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb, can have a slightly branched stem base and up to 3 stems, 0.3-1 m tall and branching.
- **Leaves:** Twice-compound, stalked, soft in texture, hairy; leaflets egg-shaped, coarsely toothed.
- **Flowers:** Appearing in early spring, small, inconspicuous, greenish-white, in small clusters at stem tips; flower stalks become longer and stiffer during flowering period.
- **Fruits:** Slender, needle-like, bristly-hairy, with one end thickened and short-beaked; fruits become blackish and split into 2 halves at maturity that remain attached by fine stalks.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flower.



Fruit.

## Similar Species

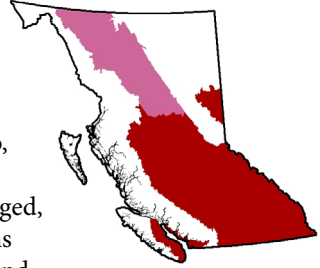
**Purple sweet-cicely** (*Osmorhiza purpurea*) is very similar, but has purplish flowers and generally occurs at higher elevations.

**Blunt-fruited sweet-cicely** (*Osmorhiza depauperata*) has fruits that are club-shaped and without a beak at one end; it is uncommon in the B.C. interior.

# Water Smartweed

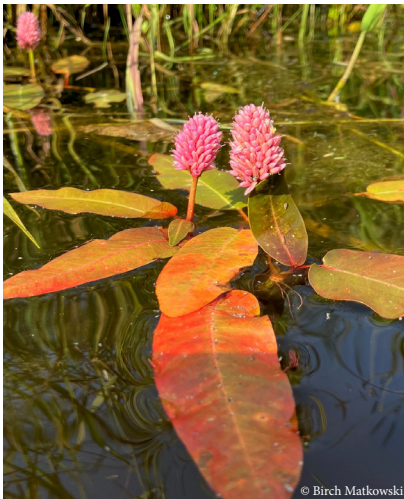
*Persicaria amphibia*

Wm03

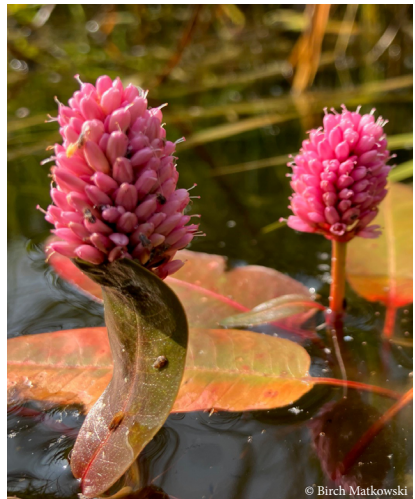


## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial semi-aquatic herb, with floating leaves and flowers, flowering branches 30-80 cm tall/long. Stems submerged, emergent, or terrestrial, with papery sheaths around each leaf node; stems of emergent and terrestrial plants erect or ascending.
- **Leaves:** Floating, stalked, oblong or elliptic, untoothed, shiny and hairless above; leaves of emergent and terrestrial plants with narrower, more lanceolate, hairier leaves.
- **Flowers:** Small, pink, in dense, erect, egg-shaped to oblong spikes atop erect stalks above the surface of the water.
- **Fruits:** Tiny, seed-like, dark brown, lens-shaped achenes.



Growth form.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Floating-leaved pondweed** (*Potamogeton natans*) has similar floating leaves, but has parallel venation on its egg-shaped, extremely long-stalked leaves; the flowers are greatly reduced and greenish, and are produced in elongate spikes just above the surface of the water.

# Fragrant White Rein Orchid

*Platanthera dilatata*

Wf03

Wf09

W512

Wb52



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with basal leaves and stem leaves, single stemmed flower spike 15-100 cm tall. Stems erect, unbranched, leafy.
- **Leaves:** Ascending, strongly sheathing the stem, lanceolate, tips usually blunt.
- **Flowers:** Sweet-smelling, white, petals narrow and spreading to recurved, lower petal (labellum) narrowly lanceolate; flowers with curved, cylindric spurs that equal or exceed the length of the labellum.
- **Fruits:** Small, elliptic, greenish, upright capsules.



Flowers and leaves.



Flowers.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Hooded ladies-tresses** (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*) is also white flowered, but is a smaller species in which the flowers are arranged spirally in several rows up the stem.



FEN  
OMINECA REGION  
© ALANA HIGGINSON

# Common Silverweed

*Potentilla anserina* ssp. *anserina*

Wm07

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial low-growing herb with long stolon or runners rooting and producing leaf clusters at each node. Mat-forming; stems trailing, with long, arching stolons.
- **Leaves:** Often held erect, compound with 11-25 main leaflets interspersed with numerous smaller leaflets; main leaflets rounded to egg-shaped, coarsely toothed, green to silvery-hairy above, densely white-woolly below.
- **Flowers:** On long leafless stalks, yellow, with 5 egg-shaped petals interspersed with 5 shorter pointed sepals, stamens numerous.
- **Fruits:** Dense aggregates of seed-like achenes above persistent sepals.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Pacific silverweed** (*Potentilla anserina* subsp. *pacifica*) is very similar but has leaves that are shiny and green above, strongly contrasting with the white-woolly lower surfaces. This subspecies is restricted to brackish and saline habitats along the coast of B.C.

# Pink Wintergreen

*Pyrola asarifolia*

Fm02

Fm03

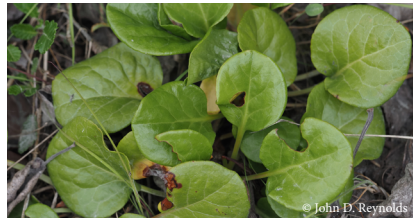


## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial, evergreen herb with basal leaves and single flowering-stem 13-40 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** All basal, long-stalked with reddish stalks, dark green, leathery, blade broadly egg-shaped to nearly circular or kidney-shaped, margins smooth or with minute, well-spaced teeth.
- **Flowers:** In an elongate inflorescence atop a solitary, erect, leafless stem; petals 5, spreading, not fused, pink or whitish with pink tips; style long and upcurved.
- **Fruits:** Small, 5-chambered capsules with a persistent upcurved style.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Green-flowered wintergreen** (*Pyrola chlorantha*) is a smaller, fewer-flowered species with greenish-white flowers and smaller leaves with more circular blades and longer stalks.

**Lesser wintergreen** (*Pyrola minor*) is a smaller species with whitish to pinkish flowers; the flowers are more bell-shaped, and are distinctly nodding and without a long, persistent, upcurved style.

# Great Burnet

*Sanguisorba officinalis*

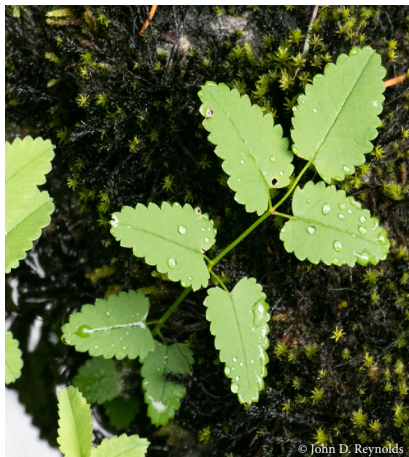
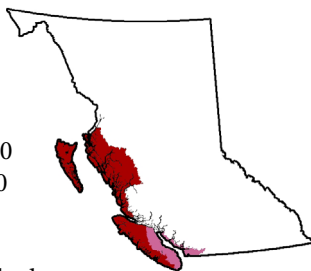
Wb51

Wb52

Wb53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Basal compound leaves 10-40 cm long, flowering stems reaching up to 150 cm.
- **Leaves:** Mostly basal, compound, with 7-15 egg-shaped, rounded, stalked, coarsely toothed leaflets.
- **Flowers:** Small, rounded to oblong clusters atop long stalks that exceed the leaves; flowers densely arranged, comprised primarily of small reddish-purple sepals and short purplish stamens that do not exceed the length of the sepals.
- **Fruits:** Solitary spherical achenes enclosed in plant tissue (hypanthium).



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Sitka burnet** (*Sanguisorba stipulate*) has similar leaves, but the inflorescence is a long, erect spike of whitish flowers with very long stamens that greatly exceed the sepals (creating a bottlebrush-like appearance).

**Menzies' burnet** (*Sanguisorba stipulata menziesii*) is rare in coastal B.C.; it is similar to Sitka Burnet, but the flowers (sepals and stamens) are reddish or purplish.

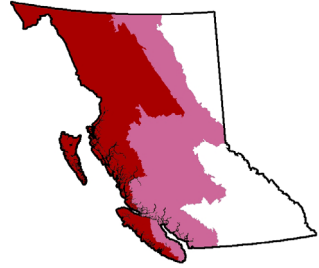
# Sitka Burnet

*Sanguisorba stipulata*

Wf03

Wf50

Wf51



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with basal compound leaves and flowering stems 25-120 cm tall, from a stout rhizome.
- **Leaves:** Mostly basal, compound, with 9-11' egg-shaped, rounded, stalked, coarsely toothed leaflets.
- **Flowers:** Long, erect spikes that exceed the leaves. Densely arranged, consisting primarily of small whitish sepals and long, spreading, whitish stamens that produce a bottlebrush-like inflorescence.
- **Fruits:** Solitary spherical achenes enclosed in plant tissue (hypanthium).



Flowers (bottom) and fruits (top).



Leaves.



Growth form.

## Similar Species

**Great burnet** (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) has similar leaves, but the inflorescence is a small, short, dense, oblong cluster of dark purple flowers with short stamens.

**Menzies' burnet** (*Sanguisorba menziesii*) is rare in coastal B.C.; it is similar to Sitka Burnet, but the flowers (sepals and stamens) are reddish or purplish.

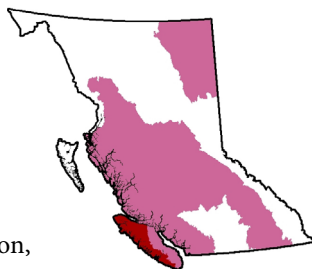
# Scheuchzeria

*Scheuchzeria palustris*

Wb12

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial aquatic grass-like herb 10-40 cm tall. Stems erect, zigzag, yellowish-green, hairless, non-glandular.
- **Leaves:** Erect, rush-like, rounded in x-section, channeled.
- **Flowers:** 3-12, small, greenish-yellow to purplish, on erect stalks from upper leaf and bract axils.
- **Fruits:** Conspicuous, long-persistent, yellow-green to dark brown, inflated, spreading follicles in clusters of 2-3 at tips of inflorescence stalks.



Growth form.



Fruits.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Rushes** (*Juncus* spp.) differ in their usually darker (brownish or blackish) floral parts and much smaller, less conspicuous capsules that occur singly in each flower and are surrounded by persistent tepals.

# Arrow Leaved Groundsel

*Senecio triangularis*

Wf03

Wf04



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with woody base, leafy stem with inflorescence at top of stem, 0.2-1.5m tall. Stems erect, unbranched.
- **Leaves:** Along the stem, short-stalked below and unstalked above, narrowly triangular, margins coarsely toothed.
- **Flowers:** Heads in branched, rounded or flat-topped clusters atop the stem. Flower heads yellow, with both ray and disc florets; involucre bracts narrow, black-tipped, in a single main row with smaller, narrower subtending bractlets.
- **Fruits:** Small, hairless achenes with a tuft of white, hair-like bristles at one end.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.



Fruits.

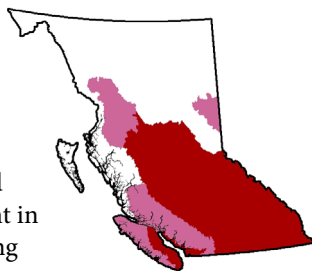
# Hemlock Water Parsnip

*Sium suave*

Wm02

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Can be semi-aquatic from a short erect stem base with sparse leaves and solitary stems 0.5-1.2 m tall. Often emergent in shallow water. Stems erect, usually branching above, not chambered at the base.
- **Leaves:** Basal and along the stem, compound; primary leaves once-pinnate with 7-15 narrow, linear to lanceolate, sharp-toothed leaflets; early leaves with leaflets variously dissected into narrow segments or teeth.
- **Flowers:** Tiny, white, in flat-topped or rounded clusters (umbels) atop long stalks from leaf axils.
- **Fruits:** Small, oval to elliptic, 2-parted, ribbed, in clusters at ends of umbel ribs.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Fruits.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Douglas' water hemlock** (*Cicuta douglasii*) has twice-pinnate leaves with broader leaflets and the stem base is chambered in longitudinal section. Highly toxic.

# Cooley's Hedge Nettle

*Stachys chamissonis* var. *cooleyae*

FI51



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Entire plant skunky-scented, especially when crushed. Stems erect, square in x-section, usually unbranched, bristly-hairy.
- **Leaves:** Opposite, long-stalked, blades lanceolate or egg-shaped to heart-shaped, coarsely blunt-toothed, long-hairy.
- **Flowers:** In whorls in an erect, unbranched terminal cluster. Flowers magenta-pink, tubular, 2-lipped at the mouth, to 3 cm long.
- **Fruits:** Clusters of 4 small nutlets within persistent sepals.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Mexican hedge nettle** (*Stachys mexicana*) is uncommon in coastal B.C., mainly along seacoasts; it is more densely shaggy-hairy, and the flowers are shorter (to 1.5 cm long).

**Marsh hedge nettle** (*Stachys pilosa*) is widespread in interior B.C.; it has unstalked, lanceolate leaves and shorter (to 1.5 cm), whitish to pale pink flowers.

# Clasping Twistedstalk

*Streptopus amplexifolius*

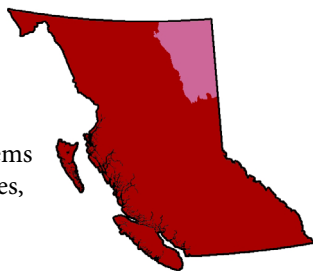
Fl01

Fl02

Fm03

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with leafy stems erect and branched, sometimes bent at nodes, 40-120 cm tall. Stems branched, erect, zig-zagged.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, simple, broadly lanceolate to egg-shaped, stalkless, clasping the stem.
- **Flowers:** Small, greenish-white, bell-shaped, drooping, occurring singly or in pairs in leaf axils from a 'kinked' stalk; petals strongly recurved at their tips.
- **Fruits:** Red to purplish, juicy berries.



Growth form.

© John D. Reynolds



Fruits.

© John D. Reynolds



Flowers.

© Trevor Van Loon

## Similar Species

**Rosy twistedstalk** (*Streptopus lanceolatus*) is a lower, less erect plant with an unbranched stem; the flowers are pinkish, with less strongly recurved petals and an unkinked flower stalk.

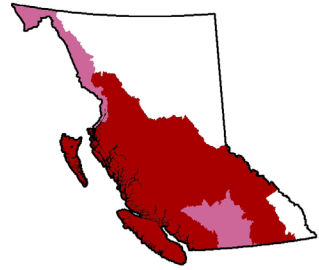
**Fairybells** (*Prosartes* spp.) have small clusters of 1-4 larger, white flowers at the stem tips, and orange to orange-red berries.

# Rosy Twistedstalk

*Streptopus lanceolatus* var. *curvipes*

Ws10

Ws11



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with leafy stems erect, usually unbranched and not bent, 10-45 cm tall. Stems unbranched, arching.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, simple, broadly lanceolate, stalkless, not clasping the stem.
- **Flowers:** Small, pink, bell-shaped, drooping, occurring singly in leaf axils; petals slightly recurved at their tips.
- **Fruits:** Red, juicy berries.



Growth form with flowers.



Leaves.



Fruits.

## Similar Species

**Clasping twistedstalk** (*Streptopus amplexifolius*) is a taller, more erect plant with a branching stem; the flowers are greenish-yellow, with strongly recurved petals and a 'kinked' flower stalk.

**Fairybells** (*Prosartes* spp.) have branching stems, small clusters of 1-4 larger, white flowers at the stem tips, and orange to orange-red berries.

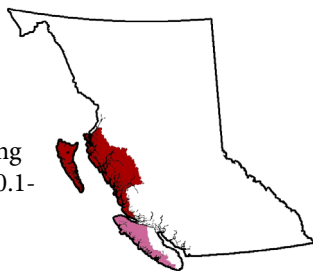
# Douglas' Aster

*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*

F150

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with ascending leafy stems that can be simple or branched 0.1-1.0 m. Stems erect, often branching, leafy.
- **Leaves:** Unstalked, linear to lanceolate, margins smooth to coarsely toothed.
- **Flowers:** Heads several to numerous, composed of a yellow disc and pale purplish rays, subtended by several series of green, oblong to lanceolate bracts (involucral bracts) that are white towards the base.
- **Fruits:** Small, seed-like achenes, each with a tuft of whitish to tawny, hair-like bristles.
- Represents a species complex, including *Symphyotrichum subspicatum*, *Symphyotrichum chilense*, and *Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*.



Growth form with flowers.



Leaves.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Leafy-bracted Aster** (*Aster foliaceus*) occurs at higher elevations; it has one to several larger, long-stalked flowering heads and consistently smooth-margined leaves.

**Subalpine Daisy** (*Erigeron glacialis*) occurs at higher elevations and has a single, terminal flowering head subtended by a single series of bracts.

# Sticky False Asphodel

*Triantha glutinosa*

Wb51

Wb52

Wb53

Wf10



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with grass-like basal leaves and flowering stems erect and 10-50 cm tall. Stems erect, densely sticky-glandular.
- **Leaves:** Grass-like, about half as tall as stems, sharply keeled and flattened in 1 plane (as in an iris).
- **Flowers:** Small, white, in a narrow, egg-shaped to oblong cluster at the stem tip.
- **Fruits:** Large, erect, egg-shaped, reddish-purple capsules.



Growth form with flowers.



Flowers.



Fruits.

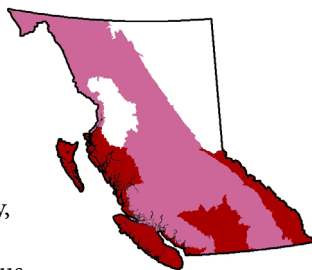
## Similar Species

**Northern False Asphodel** (*Tofieldia pusilla*) is a smaller, more delicate, non-glandular species of calcareous environments in the B.C. interior; it also has smaller, yellowish-green capsules.

# Seaside Arrow Grass

*Triglochin maritima*

Wf10



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, unbranched, usually exceeding the leaves.
- **Leaves:** Long (to 70 cm), erect, linear, fleshy, sheathing the base of the stem.
- **Flowers:** Small, very short-stalked, numerous in tallerect spikes; individual flowers greatly reduced, petals absent, subtended by several rounded bracts, styles feathery, whitish to reddish.
- **Fruits:** Small, egg-shaped, greenish, ribbed, 6-chambered capsules.



Growth form.

© Trevor Van Loon



Inflorescence.

© Trevor Van Loon



Capsules.

© John D. Reynolds

## Similar Species

**Marsh arrow-grass** (*T. palustris*) is a smaller, more delicate, and fewer-flowered species of the B.C. interior; the 3-chambered capsules are longer and narrowly oblanceolate.

# Stinging Nettle

*Urtica dioica*

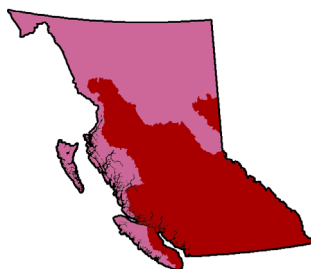
Fl01

Fl02

FORBS  
HERBACEOUS

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** A highly distinctive perennial herb with erect stems simple or branched and 100-300 cm tall. Stems erect, unbranched. Stems and leaves with abundant stinging hairs.
- **Leaves:** Opposite, stalked, egg-or heart-shaped to lanceolate, with coarsely toothed margins.
- **Flowers:** Small, inconspicuous, greenish to purplish, produced in drooping, catkin-like bunches from the upper leaf axils.
- **Fruits:** Flattened, rounded, seed-like achenes.



Growth form with flowers.



Leaves.



Flowers.

RETURN  
TO TOC

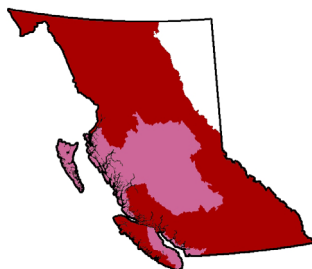
# Sitka Valerian

*Valeriana sitchensis*

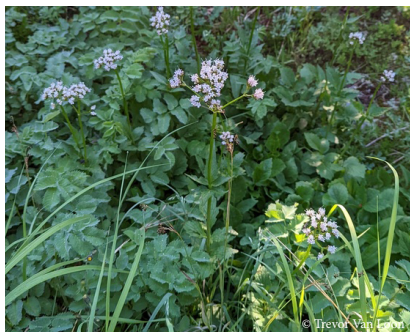
Ws08

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial herb with basal leaves and flowering stems that may have whorls of leaves 30-120 cm. Stems erect, leafy. Very strong smelling with a pungent odor, especially in late summer and fall.
- **Leaves:** Opposite, compound with 5-7 broad, coarsely toothed leaflets.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, tubular, in a rounded to flat-topped cluster at the top of the stem.
- **Fruits:** Small, dry, seed-like, ribbed, with a tuft of white, feathery hairs at one end.



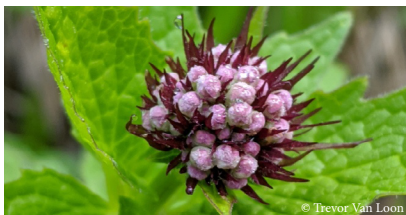
\*Primarily in middle and upper elevations



Growth form.



Leaves.



Fruits.



Flowers.

## Similar Species

**Marsh valerian** (*Valeriana dioica*) is an uncommon species of the B.C. interior; it is a smaller plant and has shorter, ascending stem leaves with up to 7 pairs of narrow lobes.

# Green False Hellebore

*Veratrum viride* var. *eschscholziaum*

Ws55



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinctive perennial herb with unbranching and leafy stems 0.7 m tall.
- **Leaves:** Large, egg-shaped, prominently parallel-veined, unstalked, strongly sheathing the stem when young.
- **Flowers:** In tall, branched inflorescences; lateral branches drooping. Flowers greenish, relatively small, with 6 spreading tepals.
- **Highly toxic.**



Growth form with flowers.



Leaves.



Flowers.

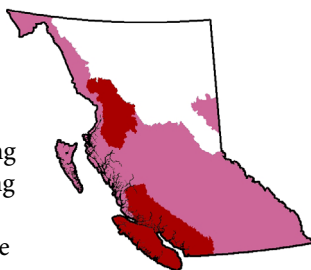
# Marsh Violet

*Viola palustris*

Wf51

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Low-growing, early-flowering perennial. Basal leaves and solitary flowering stems.
- **Leaves:** All basal or arising directly from the rhizome, long-stalked, heart-shaped, tip blunt, margins shallowly round-toothed.
- **Flowers:** Solitary, on long, leafless stalks with a pair of small bracts at the midpoint. Flowers purplish-white to pale lavender, lower petal expanded and with thin dark lines in the throat, lateral petals with sparse hairs, with a sac-like spur.
- **Fruits:** Egg-shaped, greenish capsules.



Growth form with flowers.

© Trevor Van Loon



Leaves and flowers.

© John D. Reynolds



Flower.

© Trevor Van Loon

## Similar Species

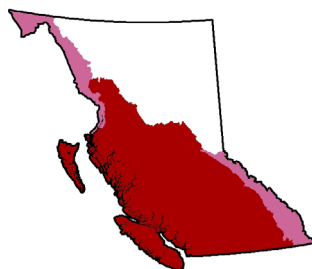
**Small white violet** (*Viola macloskeyi*) is a smaller species with white (not purple-tinged) petals.

**Dwarf marsh violet** (*Viola epipsila*) is very similar to Marsh violet, but the bracts are placed above the midpoint of the flower stalk.

# Rocky Mountain Pond Lily

*Nuphar polysepala*

Wm02

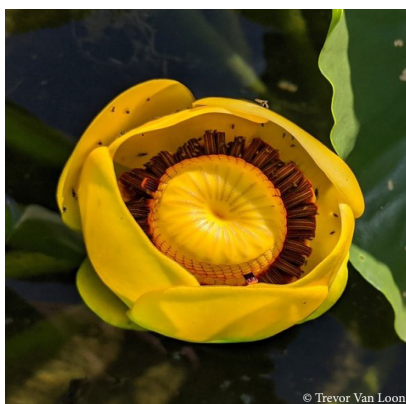


## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Perennial aquatic herb growing submerged or emersed with leaves floating in water up to 2m deep.
- **Leaves:** Long-stalked from large buried rhizome, leaf stalks rounded in x-section; leaves large (to 45 cm long), heart-shaped, bright green.
- **Flowers:** Large, yellow, occurring singly atop thick, emergent stalks; petals numerous, ascending, rounded, subtended by rounded green sepals; ovary large and green, with a large, umbrella-shaped, yellow stigmatic disc.
- **Fruits:** Large, egg-shaped, ribbed, green capsules that are constricted below the stigmatic disc.



Leaf and flower.



Flower.

## Similar Species

**Variegated yellow pond lily** (*Nuphar variegata*) occurs locally in eastern B.C.; it is a smaller species with somewhat flattened, narrowly winged leaf stalks, reddish-tinged sepals, and reddish or purplish capsules.

**Fragrant water lily** (*Nymphaea odorata*) is introduced in s B.C.; it has white to pink, spreading, pointed petals that contrast with the numerous yellowish stamens.

# Richardson's Pondweed

*Potamogeton richardsonii*

Wm04

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Aquatic, fully submersed herb with stems lax, weak unbranched and up to 150 cm long.
- **Leaves:** All submerged (none floating), narrowly to broadly lanceolate, often recurved, margins wavy and untoothed; leaf bases unstalked and strongly clasping the stem; leaf bases with membranous stipular sheaths above the leaf nodes.
- **Flowers:** Greatly reduced, greenish or brownish, produced on stalked, cylindrical, submerged or emergent spikes at stem tips.
- **Fruits:** Small, hard, beaked, seed-like achenes in thick, dense spikes.



© Eric Schmidt

Growth form.



© Rob Routledge

Leaves.



© Trevor Van Loon

Flower.

## Similar Species

**Long stalked pondweed** (*Potamogeton praelongus*) has longer, narrower leaves and the flowering/fruiting spikes borne at the ends of long, whitish stalks from the upper leaf axils.

**Curled pondweed** (*Potamogeton crispus*) is introduced in S B.C.; it has narrower leaves and the leaf margins are finely toothed much more conspicuously wavy.

# Greater Bladderwort

*Utricularia vulgaris* ssp. *macrorhiza*

Wm01

Wm04

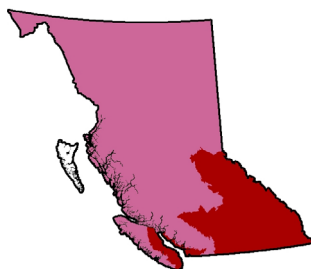
Wm03

Wm04

Wm05

Wm06

Wm51



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Carnivorous, submerged aquatic species, unrooted and free-floating, up to 1 m long.
- **Leaves:** large, densely dissected into fine, thread-like divisions with abundant small bladders that are often blackish (when filled with prey).
- **Flowers:** Large, yellow, emergent, in clusters of 6-20 atop erect stems; composed of two corolla lips, base of lower lip with a hump-like lobe at the mouth and a slender appressed spur at the base.
- **Fruits:** Small capsules on recurved stalks.



Growth form.



Flowers.



Roots.



Leaves.

## Similar Species

**Flat leaved bladderwort** (*Utricularia intermedia*) has smaller flowers in fewer-flowered inflorescences, and its leaves are differentiated into narrowly-dissected chlorophyllous leaves and separate carnivorous leaves that are reduced to whitish, thread-like segments and bladders.







# GRAMINIDS

SLENDER, NARROW-LEAVED WETLAND PLANTS

SEDGES | RUSHES | GRASSES | CATTAILS

© TREVOR VAN LOON

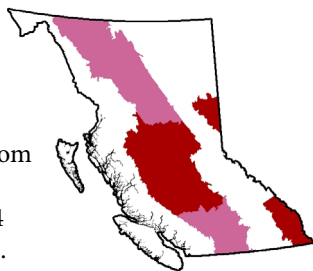
# Yellow Flowered Sedge

*Carex anthoxantha*

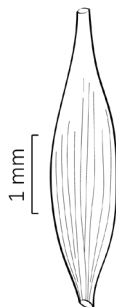
Wf12

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, arising singly from a delicate rhizome.
- **Leaves:** Fine (to 2 mm wide), grass-like, 2-4 per stem, often produced from sterile stems.
- **Inflorescence:** Narrow (to 3 mm wide), linear, spike-like, lacking subtending bracts.
- **Perigynia:** Erect, lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, long-pointed, pale green, veined; female scales lanceolate, about as long and wide as the perigynia, dark brown with a green midrib.



Inflorescence.



Perigynium



Perigynia.

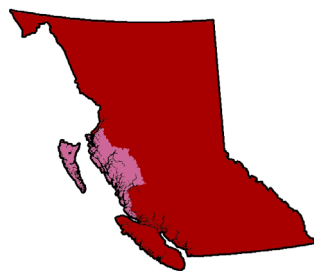
## Similar Species

**Bristle-stalked sedge** (*Carex leptalea*) is tufted and has 2-9 egg-shaped, blunt-tipped perigynia in a shorter, oblong spike-like inflorescence.

# Water Sedge

*Carex aquatilis*

Wm01	Wm02	Wf01	Wf02	Wf03
Wf04	Wf05	Wf07	Wf10	Wf13
Ws04	Ws05	Wb05	Wb06	Wb07
Wb08	Wb10	Wb11		



## Key Characters

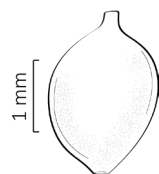
- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 150 cm tall, rhizomatous, often forming extensive colonies.
- **Leaves:** Flat, 3-10 mm wide, lax, often blue-tinged; sheaths brown-tinged at the mouth.
- **Inflorescence:** Several elongate, cylindrical female spikes in the axils of the upper leaves below an erect male spike at the top of the stem; female spikes erect and short-stalked.
- **Perigynia:** 2-3.5 mm, egg-shaped, flattened, rounded at the tip, unbeaked to short-beaked, hairless; female scales egg-shaped, blackish or brown with a green midrib, shorter than the perigynia.



Inflorescence and leaves.



Perigynia.



Perigynium



Perigynia.

## Similar Species

**Sitka sedge** (*Carex sitchensis*) is tufted and has broader, greener leaves and long-stalked, nodding lower female spikes.

**Kellogg's sedge** (*Carex kelloggii*) is a lower-growing species (to 80 cm tall) that is densely tufted and often has a more compact inflorescence; the leaves are narrower (1-3 mm wide) and have brown-spotted sheaths.

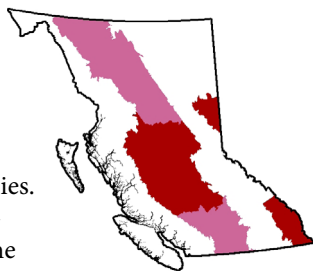
# Awned Sedge

*Carex atherodes*

Wm03

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 125 cm tall, rhizomatous, often forming extensive colonies.
- **Leaves:** Flat, grass-like, long-sheathed, soft-hairy; sheaths soft-hairy, reddish towards the stem base, becoming shredded into thread-like filaments.
- **Inflorescence:** 2-5 unstalked, cylindrical, erect to ascending spikes from upper leaf axils, with several erect, spike-like male spikes atop of stem.
- **Perigynia:** Large (9-16 mm), ascending, lanceolate to egg-shaped with a long, deeply 2-pronged beak, strongly veined, greenish; female scales lanceolate, awn-tipped, straw-coloured, about as long as the perigynia.



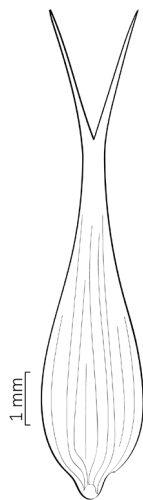
Inflorescence.



Leaf.



Perigynia.



Perigynium

## Similar Species

**Beaked sedge** (*Carex utriculata*) has spreading perigynia with much shorter prongs at the tip of the beak, and lacks soft hairs on the leaves and sheaths.

# Cordroot Sedge

*Carex chordorrhiza*

Wf06

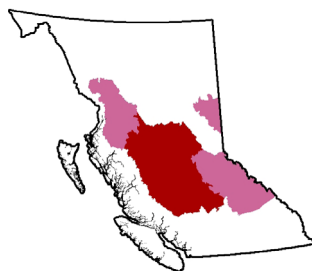
Wf07

Wf08

Wf10

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, arising singly from a trailing above-ground stolon.
- **Leaves:** Short, flat, narrow, grass-like, 1-3 per stem, often produced from sterile stem.
- **Inflorescence:** A tight aggregation of 3-5 small (to 8 mm long), few-flowered, stalkless, egg-shaped spikes; usually appearing as a single spike.
- **Perigynia:** Egg-shaped, short-beaked, often brownish, inflated, strongly veined; female scales egg-shaped, pointed, slightly longer than the perigynia, brown with whitish margins.



Inflorescence.

© Trevor Van Loon



Leaves.

© Trevor Van Loon



Perigynium



Perigynia.

© Trevor Van Loon

## Similar Species

**Spike-rushes** (*Eleocharis* spp.) lack perigynia (achenes are exposed and usually subtended by short bristle-like filaments) and have a single, spike-like inflorescence without individual spikes.

# Soft Leaved Sedge

*Carex disperma*

Wb05

Wb08

Wb09

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems loosely tufted, slender, weak, usually drooping, to 60 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Very slender, flattened, grass-like, to 1.2 mm wide.
- **Inflorescence:** Several well-separated clusters of 1-6 nearly stalkless perigynia; lowest spike subtended by fine bristle-like bract.
- **Perigyni:** Pale green to pale brown, egg-shaped, tip rounded to short-pointed, beakless, inflated; female scales egg-shaped, pointed, pale, shorter than the perigynia.



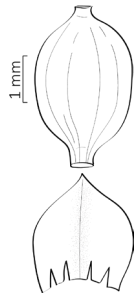
Growth form.

© Syd Cannings



Inflorescence.

© Trevor Van Loon



Perigynium



Perigynia.

© Trevor Van Loon

## Similar Species

**Three-seeded sedge** (*Carex trisperma*) is a similarly slender sedge of bog and fens, but the lowest 1-2 clusters of perigynia are subtended by an elongate, leaf-like bract as long as the inflorescence.

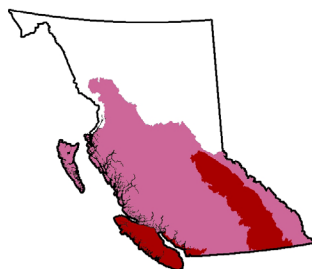
# Inflated Sedge

*Carex exsiccata*

Wm51

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 100 cm tall, rhizomatous, often forming extensive colonies.
- **Leaves:** Firm, coarse, flat, to 6 mm wide, margins rolled under; leaf sheaths at base of stem shredded into thread-like filaments.
- **Inflorescence:** Several robust, cylindrical female spikes in the axils of the upper leaves below 2-3 erect male spikes at the top of the stem; female spikes erect to ascending, unstalked, well-separated, with a spiky appearance from the spreading perigynia beaks.
- **Perigynia:** 7-10 mm, lanceolate with a long 2-pronged beak, inflated, firm, strongly veined, yellowish-reddish-brown; female scales shorter than the perigynia.



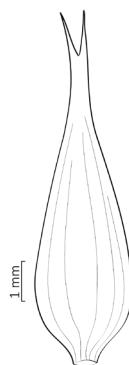
Inflorescence and growth form.



Inflorescence.



Perigynia.



Perigynium

## Similar Species

**Beaked sedge** (*Carex utriculata*) has broader, spreading perigynia (vs. ascending perigynia in Inflated Sedge) and broader leaves that lack the shredded, filamentous leaf sheaths.

**Lesser bladder Sedge** (*Carex vesicaria*) is very similar, but has shorter, broader perigynia (to 7.5 mm long) with a more abruptly contracted beak; it is a species of the southern interior of B.C.

# Slender Sedge

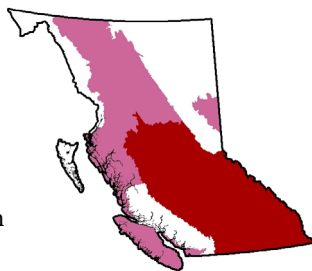
*Carex lasiocarpa*

Wf05

Wf06

Wf10

Wf53



## Key Characters

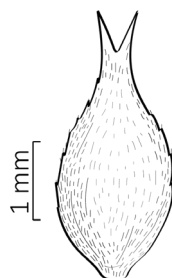
- **Growth form:** Stems very slender, erect, to 120 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Stems very slender, erect, to 120 cm tall.
- **Inflorescence:** 2-3 well-separated, erect, unstalked, oblong to cylindrical female spikes below 1-2 linear, erect male spikes at the stem tip; female spikes subtended by erect, wiry leaf-like bracts.
- **Perigynia:** Egg-shaped with a 2-pronged beak, short-hairy, inflated, green to brownish; female scales about as long as the perigynia, lanceolate, long-pointed to awned, purplish-brown with a green midrib and whitish margins.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Perigynium



Perigynia.

## Similar Species

**Woolly sedge** (*Carex pellita*) has similar hairy perigynia, but the leaves are flatter and grass-like and the leafy bracts below the spikes are keeled.

# Shore Sedge

*Carex limosa*

Wf07

Wf08

Wf09

Wf10

Wf11

Wf13

Wb11

Wb12

Wb13



## Key Characters

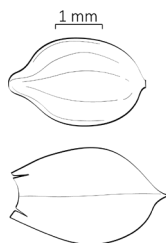
- **Growth form:** Stems solitary, erect, from long slender rhizomes.
- **Leaves:** Deeply channelled, grass-like, 1-3 per stem, often produced from sterile stems.
- **Inflorescence:** 1-3 long-stalked, dangling, oblong female spikes below a single erect male spike; lowest spike with a leaf-like bract at the base of the stalk.
- **Perigynia:** Egg-shaped, rounded at the tip, unbeaked, pale blue-green; female scales rounded to pointed, pale brown, about as long and wide as the perigynia.



Growth form and inflorescence.



Perigynia.



Perigynium



Leaf.

## Similar Species

**Poor sedge** (*Carex magellanica*) has longer, narrower female scales that are longer than the perigynia, giving the spikes a bristly appearance.

**Many-flowered sedge** (*Carex pluriflora*) has blackish female scales and is restricted to coastal environments.

# Pale Sedge

*Carex livida*

Wf10

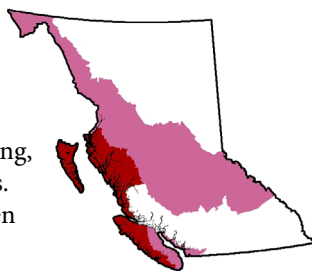
Wb51

Wb52

Wb53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems solitary, erect or arching, strongly bluish, from long slender rhizomes.
- **Leaves:** Flat, grass-like, strongly bluish, often produced from sterile stems.
- **Inflorescence:** 1-3 cylindrical spikes, lowest spike short-long-stalked, uppermost spike nearly stalkless; lowest spike subtended by a long, erect, leaf-like bract.
- **Perigynia:** Elliptic with a narrow, rounded tip, slightly inflated, pale blue-green; female scales egg-shaped, slightly shorter than the perigynia, purple-brown with a green midrib.



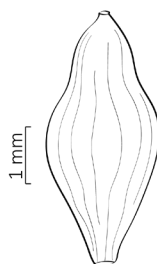
Growth form.

© Kyla Rushon



Inflorescence.

© Trevor Van Loon



Perigynium



Perigynia.

© Trevor Van Loon

## Similar Species

**Shore sedge** (*Carex limosa*) lacks the strong bluish colour of this species, and has long-stalked, dangling, oblong female spikes with shorter, broader, egg-shaped perigynia and light brown female scales.

# Poor Sedge

*Carex magellanica* ssp. *irrigua*

Wf13

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems solitary, erect, from long slender rhizomes.
- **Leaves:** Flat, grass-like, 3-9 per stem, often produced from sterile stems.
- **Inflorescence:** 2-4 long-stalked, dangling, oblong female spikes below a single erect male spike; lower spikes with long leaf-like bracts at the bases of their stalks.
- **Perigynia:** Broadly egg-shaped, unbeaked or nearly so, pale blue-green; female scales lanceolate, long-pointed, reddish-brown, longer and narrower than the perigynia, giving the spike a bristly appearance.



Growth form.

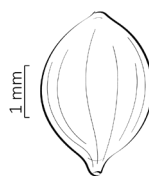


Inflorescence.



Inflorescence.

Perigynium



Growth form.

## Similar Species

**Shore sedge** (*Carex limosa*) has shorter, broader female scales that are about as long as the perigynia and do not give the spikes a bristly appearance.

# Few Flowered Sedge

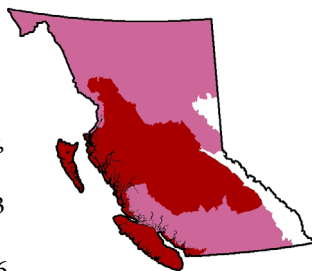
*Carex pauciflora*

Wb02

Wb04

Wb10

Wb11



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems solitary, erect, slender, weak, from long slender rhizomes.
- **Leaves:** Narrow, erect, flat to channeled, 1-3 per stem.
- **Inflorescence:** Small, solitary spike with 1-6 perigynia subtending a small, terminal, erect male portion.
- **Perigynia:** Spreading to reflexed, linear-lanceolate, to 7.5 mm long, long-pointed, yellowish-green; female scales lanceolate, straw-coloured and translucent, about as long and wide as the perigynia, sometimes short-awned, deciduous.



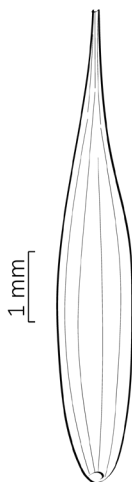
Inflorescence and growth form.



Inflorescence.



Perigynia.



Perigynium

## Similar Species

**Few-seeded fen sedge** (*Carex microglochin*) occurs in calcareous habitats and has smaller (to 5 mm), more sharply reflexed perigynia that possess a protruding bristle from the mouth.

# Many Flowered Sedge

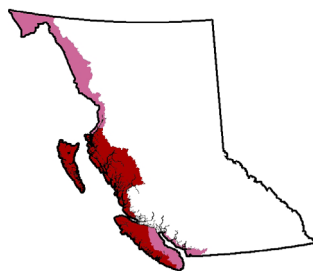
*Carex pluriflora*

Wb02

Wb04

## Key Characters

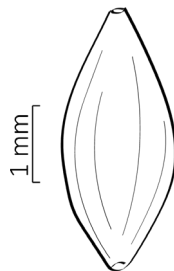
- **Growth form:** Stems solitary, erect, from long slender rhizomes.
- **Leaves:** Flat, grass-like, 3-5 per stem, often produced from sterile stems.
- **Inflorescence:** 1-3 long-stalked, dangling, oblong female spikes below a single erect male spike; lowest spike with a short leaf-like bract at the base of the stalk.
- **Perigynia:** Elliptic, rounded to blunt-pointed at the tip, unbeaked, pale blue-green; female scales pointed, sometimes short-awned, blackish, about as long and wide as the perigynia.



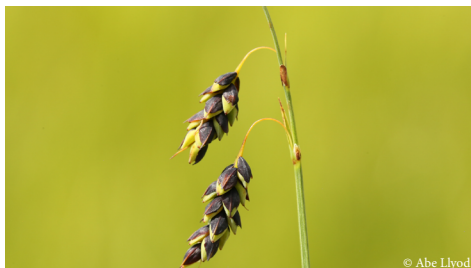
Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Perigynium



Perigynia.

## Similar Species

**Shore sedge** (*Carex limosa*) has pale brownish female scales and is widespread throughout most of B.C.

**Poor sedge** (*Carex magellanica*) has longer, narrower female scales that are longer than the perigynia, giving the spikes a bristly appearance.

# Sitka Sedge

*Carex sitchensis*

Wm50

Wm51

Wf03

Wf04

Wf51

Wf52

Ws02

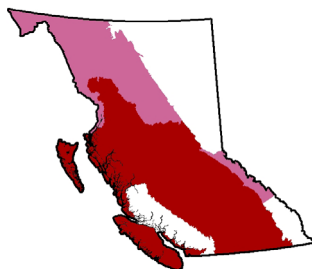
Ws06

Ws50

Wb04

Wb10

Wb51

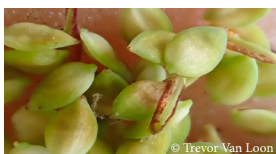


## Key Characters

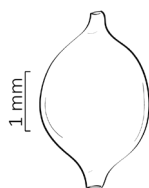
- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 150 cm tall, tufted, often forming extensive colonies.
- **Leaves:** Flat, 5-10 mm wide, lax, green; sheaths brown-tinged at the mouth.
- **Inflorescence:** Several elongate, cylindrical female spikes in the axils of the upper leaves below an erect male spike at the top of the stem; lower female spikes drooping and long-stalked.
- **Perigynia:** 2-3.5 mm, egg-shaped, flattened, rounded at the tip, unbeaked to short-beaked, hairless; female scales egg-shaped, blackish or brown with a green midrib, shorter than the perigynia.



Growth form.



Perignia.



Perigynium



Inflorescence.

## Similar Species

**Water sedge** (*Carex aquatilis*) is rhizomatous and has narrower, usually blue-tinged leaves and short-stalked, erect lower female spikes.

**Kellogg's sedge** (*Carex kelloggii*) is a lower-growing species (to 80 cm tall) that is densely tufted and has a more compact, erect inflorescence; the leaves are narrower (1-3 mm wide) and have brown-spotted sheaths.

# Sparse Flowered Sedge

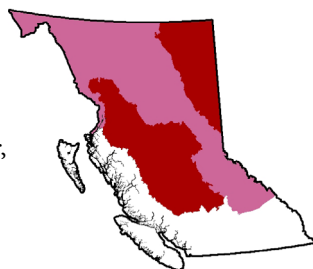
*Carex tenuiflora*

Wb08

Wb11

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems loosely tufted, slender, weak, erect, to 50 cm tall.
- **Leaves:** Slender, flattened, grass-like, to 2 mm wide.
- **Inflorescence:** 3 small, closely aggregated, stalkless, rounded spikes of 3-15 perigynia; lowest spike lacks a subtending bract.
- **Perigynia:** Egg-shaped, tip pointed but not beaked, grey-green to golden-green, slightly inflated, veined; female scales green with a broad white margin, as long as the perigynia.



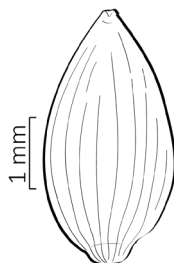
Growth form.

© Jamie Fenneman



Inflorescence.

© Jeremy Collison



Perigynium



Perigynia.

© Finn Megheer

## Similar Species

**Two-seeded sedge** (*Carex disperma*) has well-separated clusters of 1-6 perigynia; lowest cluster subtended by a short bristle-like bract.

**Norwegian sedge** (*Carex media*) has similarly aggregated spikes, but is a larger (to 70 cm tall) species with larger, stalked spikes and a leaf-like bract subtending the inflorescence; the female scales are blackish with a green midrib and are shorter than the perigynia.

# Beaked Sedge

*Carex utriculata*

Wm01

Wm02

Wf01

Wf02

Wf05

Ws03

Ws04

Ws05

Ws06



## Key Characters

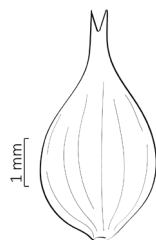
- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 120 cm tall, rhizomatous, often forming extensive colonies.
- **Leaves:** Firm, coarse, flat, to 15 mm wide, margins rolled under.
- **Inflorescence:** Several robust, cylindrical female spikes in the axils of the upper leaves below 2-5 erect male spikes at the top of the stem; female spikes erect, unstalked, well-separated, with a spiky appearance from the spreading perigynia beaks.
- **Perigynia:** 5-11 mm, egg-shaped with a long 2 pronged beak, inflated, firm, strongly veined, greenish to reddish; female scales much shorter than the perigynia.



Growth form with inflorescence.



Perigynia.



Perigynium



Inflorescence.

## Similar Species

**Swollen beaked sedge** (*Carex rostrata*) is a similar but rarer species; it has narrower (to 7 mm wide), blue-tinged leaves with tiny bumps ('papillae') on the upper surface and inrolled leaf margins.

**Inflated sedge** (*Carex exsiccata*) has more slender, ascending perigynia and shredded, fibrous lower leaf sheaths.

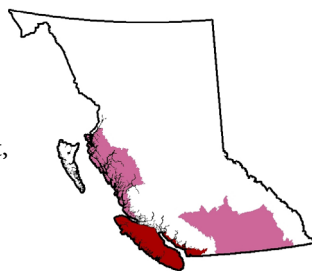
# Three-way Sedge

*Dulichium arundinaceum*

Wm51

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinctive with erect, leafy stems up to 100 cm tall, arising singly from extensive rhizomes, often forming extensive colonies.
- **Leaves:** Strongly 3-ranked (i.e., spreading in 3 directions), flat, firm, coarse, to 8 mm wide, little reduced towards the top of the stem.
- **Inflorescence:** Clusters of 1-17 linear, yellowish-green, slightly flattened, dense-flowered, stalked, pointed spikes from the leaf axils.
- **Fruits:** Tiny, long-beaked, seed-like achenes subtended by barbed, brownish bristles that are much longer than the achene body.



Growth form.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Inflorescence.

# Narrow-leaved Cotton Grass

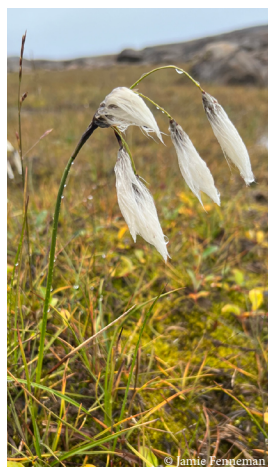
*Eriophorum angustifolium*

Wb02	Wb04	Wb10	Wb13	Wb51
Wb52	Wb53	Wf09	Wf11	Wf12
Wf13	Wf50			



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 30 cm tall, from creeping rhizomes.
- **Leaves:** Flat with a keeled tip, grass-like, to 6 mm wide, with brownish or blackish sheaths.
- **Inflorescence:** Egg-shaped, 2-10 in terminal cluster, lower inflorescences long-stalked and drooping, with smooth stalks; terminal inflorescence cluster subtended by 1-3 erect, leaf-like bracts with blackish sheaths.
- **Flowers:** Numerous long, whitish, filamentous bristles that much exceed the blackish scales, giving each inflorescence a cottony appearance.
- **Fruits:** Tiny black, seed-like achenes with persistent long, white, cottony bristles.



Growth form.



Inflorescence with flowers.



Inflorescence with fruits.

## Similar Species

**Green-keeled cotton-grass** (*Eriophorum viridicarinatum*) has green leaf sheaths, roughened inflorescence stalks, and prominent pale midribs on the floral scales that are sometimes extended into a short awn.



FEN  
THOMPSON NICOLA REGION  
© JAMIE LONG

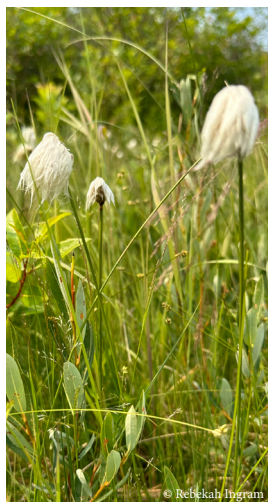
# Chamisso's Cotton Grass

*Eriophorum chamissonis*

Wf53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 30 cm tall, solitary from creeping rhizomes.
- **Leaves:** 1-3 on lower stem, keeled, narrow, grass-like, to 2 mm wide.
- **Inflorescence:** A solitary spike at stem tip, egg-shaped, lacking a subtending bract.
- **Flowers:** Numerous long filamentous bristles that much exceed the greyish or blackish, pale-margined scales, giving each inflorescence a cottony appearance; filamentous bristles whitish with a variable tawny to rusty-brown tinge.
- **Fruits:** Tiny black, seed-like achenes with persistent long, cottony, rusty-tinged whitish bristles.



Growth form.



Stem.



Inflorescence.

## Similar Species

**Scheuchzer's cotton-grass** (*Eriophorum scheuchzeri*) lacks the rusty-brown tinge to the floral bristles and the scales lack whitish margins.

**Short-anthered cotton-grass** (*Eriophorum brachyantherum*) is similar to *E. scheuchzeri*, but is densely tufted.

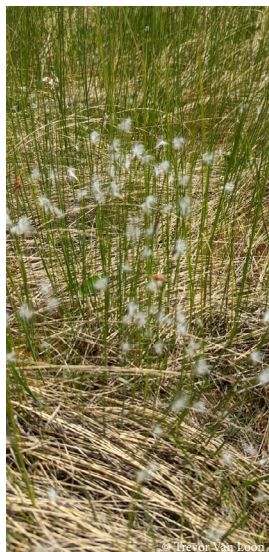
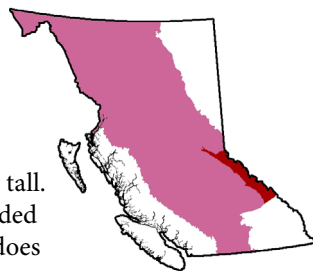
# Hudson Bay Clubrush

*Trichophorum alpinum*

Wf10

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, densely tufted, 3-angled, rough-textured, leafless, to 40 cm tall.
- **Inflorescence:** Small terminal spike subtended by a short, bristle-like stem extension that does not exceed the spike.
- **Flowers:** Each flower with a brown, lanceolate to egg-shaped, blunt scale and long (to 2.5 cm) white, curly, filamentous bristles.
- **Fruits:** Elliptic, seed-like, 3-angled, purplish-brown achenes subtended by the long, white hairs that give the inflorescence a 'cottony' appearance.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Achenes.

## Similar Species

**Cotton-grasses** (*Eriophorum* spp.) with single spikes (e.g., *Eriophorum chamissonis*, *Eriophorum scheuchzeri*) lack a bristle-like stem extension at the base of the spike, and have larger, more compact heads of cottony bristles.

**Tufted clubrush** (*Trichophorum cespitosum*) has smooth, rounded stems and the tiny spikes lack long, cottony bristles.

# Tufted Clubrush

*Trichophorum cespitosum*

Wb51

Wb52

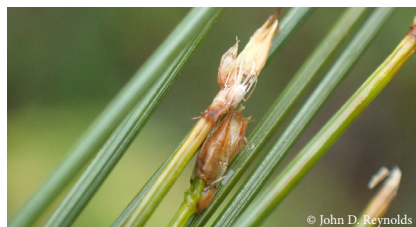
Wb53

Wf11

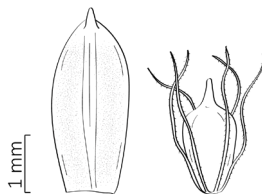
Wf50

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, densely tufted, rounded, smooth, leafless, to 45 cm tall.
- **Flowers:** Inflorescence a small terminal spike subtended by a short, bristle-like stem extension that does not exceed the spike; each flower with a yellowish-brown, lanceolate to egg-shaped, pointed scale.
- **Fruits:** Elliptic, seed-like, 3-angled, brown achenes subtended by short, brown bristles that do not exceed the scale.



Achenes.



Achene



Growth form.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.

## Similar Species

**Hudson Bay clubrush** (*Trichophorum alpinum*) has 3-angled stem and the flowers are subtended by long, white, cottony hairs that much exceed the scales.

# Common Spike Rush

*Eleocharis palustris*

Wm04

## Key Characters

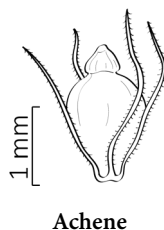
- **Growth form:** Often grows emergent from the water. Stems erect, leafless, to 115 cm tall, arising singly from a rhizome.
- **Inflorescence:** A small, lanceolate to elliptic, pointed spike of 30+ flowers.
- **Fruits:** Globose, seed-like, dark brown achenes topped by a hat-like beak, subtended by 4 bristles; floral scales lanceolate to egg-shaped, dark brown (often with a green midrib), lowermost much shorter than the spike.



Growth form with inflorescence.



Inflorescence.



Achene



Growth form.

## Similar Species

This is the most common representative of a complex of 3-4 species in B.C. that are extremely similar and difficult to identify; the name *Eleocharis palustris* may be applied to this group as a whole.

**Blunt spike-rush** (*Eleocharis obtusa*) is a shorter (to 50 cm tall),

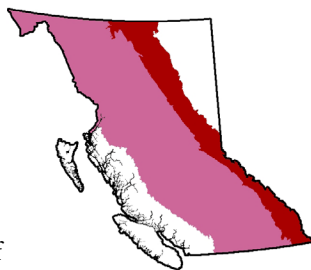
# Few Flowered Spike Rush

*Eleocharis quinqueflora*

Wf12

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Restricted to areas of calcareous soils. Stems erect, leafless, to 35 cm tall, arising singly from a rhizome.
- **Inflorescence:** A small, egg-shaped spike of 3-10 flowers.
- **Fruits:** Globose, seed-like, dark brown achenes topped by a slender beak, subtended by 3-6 bristles; floral scales lanceolate to egg-shaped, brown, lowermost about as long as spike.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Achene

## Similar Species

**Elliptic spike-rush** (*Eleocharis elliptica*) is also associated with calcareous habitats; it has taller (to 90 cm) stems with rounder spikes and lower scales that are white-margined, notched, and shorter than the spike.

**Dwarf clubrush** (*Trichophorum pumilum*) often grows with this species in calcareous habitats; it is smaller (to 14 cm tall) and has smaller spikes that are subtended by a short, erect, bristle-like bract.

# Baltic Rush

*Juncus balticus*

Wm04

## Key Characters

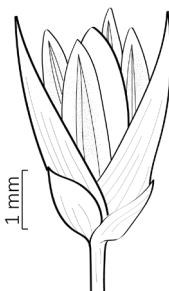
- **Growth form:** Stems erect, slender, wiry, leafless, dark green, to 60 cm tall, produced singly from long rhizomes.
- **Inflorescence:** Loosely flowered, laterally produced cluster of long-stalked florets from a single point about 2/3 up the stem. Florets with 6 dark-brown, pale-margined, lanceolate tepals subtending 6 pale yellow anthers and a small conical ovary; stigma reddish, 2 branched.
- **Fruits:** Capsules egg-shaped, rounded at the tip, dark brown to black, about as long as the tepals.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Floret



Florets with capsules.

## Similar Species

**Common rush** (*Juncus effusus*) is a larger (to 120 cm tall), coarser species with densely tufted stems and often paler brown tepals.

**Thread rush** (*Juncus filiformis*) has more slender stems and the inflorescence is produced at the midpoint of the stem.

# White Beak Rush

*Rhynchospora alba*

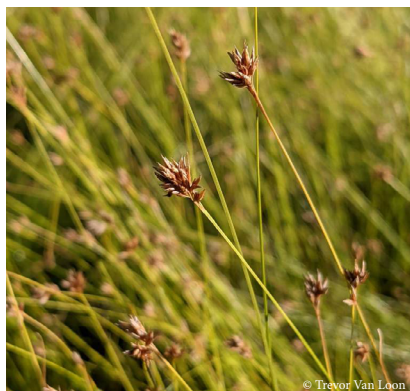
Wf11

Wf53

Wb52

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Highly distinct with erect stems up to 50 cm tall, densely tufted, leafy.
- **Leaves:** Leaves fine, to 1 mm wide, grass-like, flat to keeled.
- **Inflorescence:** 1-3 per stem, both terminal and long-stalked from leaf axils, composed of clusters of several narrow, whitish (often becoming brown-tinged), 2-3 flowered spikes; terminal cluster usually exceeding the height of the leaves.
- **Fruits:** Tiny, flattened, beaked, pale brown, seed-like achenes subtended by 10-12 barbed bristles.



Growth form.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Achenes.

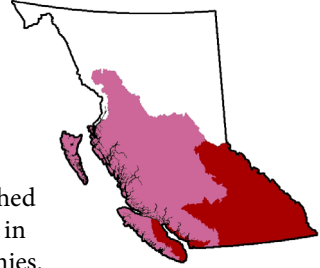
# Hard Stemmed Bulrush

*Schoenoplectus acutus*

Wm06

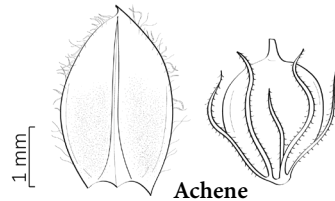
## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, nearly leafless, dark green, rhizomatous, to 3+ m tall, rounded, smooth, firm (i.e., not easily crushed between the fingers); stems often emergent in standing water and forming extensive colonies.
- **Inflorescence:** Spreading to drooping branches, appearing laterally just below the stem tip; spikelets solitary or in small, unstalked clusters at branch tips. Spikelets greyish-brown, egg-shaped, to 15 mm long; scales egg-shaped, surfaces short-hairy, fringed with short hairs, tip often with a short awn.
- **Fruits:** Tiny, seed-like achenes that are shorter than the scales, subtended by several short, barbed, brownish bristles.



Inflorescence.

© Don A. Sutherland



Achene



Growth form.

© Tim B. Reynolds

## Similar Species

**Soft-stemmed bulrush** (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*) has reddish-brown spikelets, hairless surfaces on the scales, and soft-textured stems that are easily crushed between the fingers.



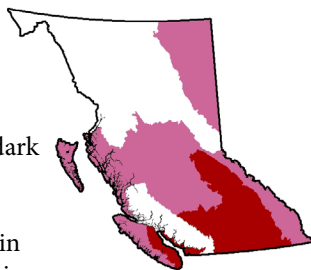
# Soft Stemmed Bulrush

*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*

Wf53

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, nearly leafless, dark green, rhizomatous, to 2+ m tall, rounded, smooth, soft in texture (i.e., easily crushed between the fingers); stems often emergent in standing water and forming extensive colonies.
- **Inflorescence:** Spreading to drooping branches, appearing laterally just below the stem tip; spikelets in solitary or in small, unstalked clusters at branch tips. Spikelets reddish-brown, egg-shaped, to 12 mm long; scales egg-shaped, surfaces smooth, fringed with short hairs, tip often with a short awn.
- **Fruits:** Tiny, seed-like achenes that are about as long as the scales, subtended by several short, barbed, brownish bristles.



Inflorescence.



Achene



Growth form.

## Similar Species

**Great bulrush** (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) has greyish-brown spikelets, short-hairy scales, and firm stems that are not easily crushed between the fingers.

# Small Flowered Bulrush

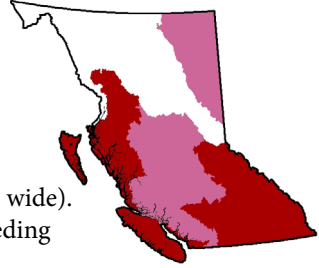
*Scirpus microcarpus*

Ws06

Ws51

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 150 cm tall, rhizomatous, often forming colonies.
- **Leaves:** Firm, coarse, flat, broad (to 20 mm wide).
- **Inflorescence:** Terminal, often barely exceeding the leaves, widely branching, composed of numerous small, egg-shaped spikelets that are borne in small clusters at ends of the branches. Female scales blackish with a greenish midrib, short-pointed.
- **Fruits:** Achenes solitary seed-like, subtended by several short, hair-like bristles.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Inflorescence.



Leaves.

## Similar Species

**Wool-grasses** (*Scirpus cyperinus*, *Scirpus atrocinctus*) are taller, more slender species with narrower leaves (to 10 mm wide) and a drooping inflorescence; the mature achenes are surrounded by numerous woolly hairs, giving the fruiting spikelets a 'woolly' appearance.

# Bluejoint Reedgrass

*Calamagrostis canadensis*

Wm01

Wm03

Wf04

Ws01

Ws02

Ws03

Ws04

Ws05

Ws06

Ws09

Fl05

Fl50



## Key Characters

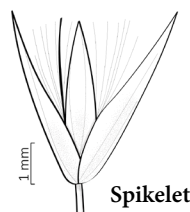
- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 150 cm tall; plants tufted to rhizomatous, often forming extensive colonies.
- **Leaves:** Roughened above, narrow and lax, tip usually drooping, often slightly blue-tinged; ligules 3-8 mm long, with ragged apices.
- **Inflorescence:** 10-25 cm long, erect or drooping at the tip, paniculate.
- **Fruits:** Spikelets 1 flowered; glumes exceeding the lemma and often purple-tinged; lemma surrounded by callus hairs that are as long as the lemma, short-awned with awn attached at mid-point of lemma.



Growth form.



Inflorescence.



Spikelet



Spikelets.

## Similar Species

**Reed canarygrass** (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is similar when not flowering, but is a larger and more robust species (to 2.5 m tall) with broader, firmer leaves that have a rounded ligule; the lemmas lack long callus hairs.

**Slimstem reedgrass** (*Calamagrostis stricta*) is a smaller, more strongly rhizomatous species that does not usually form colonies; it has a narrow, erect inflorescence and narrower, usually stiffly erect and inrolled leaves.

# Blue Wildrye

*Elymus glaucus*

Fl50

Fl51

Fm06

Fm51



## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 180 cm tall, tufted, smooth, blue-tinged.
- **Leaves:** Flat, lax, blue-tinged, to 13 mm wide, not reduced in size up the stem, with ear-like flaps ('auricles') at the blade-sheath junction; ligules short, flat.
- **Inflorescence:** Tall, slender, erect to slightly nodding spike 5-21 cm long.
- **Fruits:** Spikelets paired at spike nodes, unstalked, 2-4 flowered; glumes narrow, lanceolate, long-pointed, often short-awned; lemmas narrow, lanceolate, usually extended into an awn 1-25 mm long.



Inflorescence.



Inflorescence.



Spikelet



Leaf with auricle.

## Similar Species

**Quackgrass** (*Elymus repens*) is an exotic, invasive species that is strongly rhizomatous and has solitary spikelets at each node with unawned to short-awned (to 4 mm) lemmas.



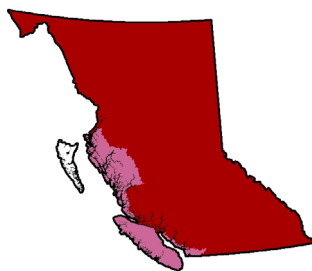
# Foxtail Barley

*Hordeum jubatum*

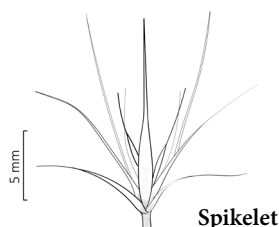
Wm07

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, densely tufted, often soft-hairy, to 50 cm tall; plants usually with an overall blue-grey appearance.
- **Leaves:** Flat, to 5 mm wide, short-hairy at base of the blade; ligules short and flat.
- **Inflorescence:** Drooping, densely flowered spike to 10 cm long, purple-tinged; disarticulating at seed dispersal.
- **Fruits:** Glumes and lemmas narrow and extended into long (to 9 cm long), stiff, roughened awns.



Growth form.



Spikelet



Inflorescence.

## Similar Species

**Meadow barley** (*Hordeum brachyantherum*) has more slender, erect to slightly nodding spikes; florets with shorter awns on the glumes and lemmas (to 17 mm long).

# Kentucky Bluegrass

*Poa pratensis* ssp. *agassizensis*

Fl07

Fm01

## Key Characters

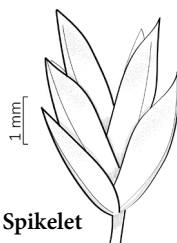
- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 100 cm tall, rhizomatous to loosely tufted, smooth.
- **Leaves:** Flat to folded, to 4 mm wide, leaf tips folded ('prow-shaped'), mostly on lower portion of stem, upper stem leaves reduced; ligules rounded and jagged; leaf sheaths open for 50-75% of their length.
- **Inflorescences:** Paniculate, to 18 cm long, lowest node with 3-5 branches, pyramid-shaped, becoming nodding and straw-coloured at seed dispersal.
- **Fruits:** Spikelets narrowly egg-shaped, pointed, flattened, 3-5 flowered, 4-7 mm long; glumes broadly lanceolate, pointed, keeled, shorter than the lemmas; lemmas narrowly egg-shaped, pointed, with a tuft of cobwebby hairs at the base, keel short-hairy, with a whitish margin and purplish submarginal band.



Growth form.



Spikelets.



Spikelet



Inflorescence.

## Similar Species

**Fowl bluegrass** (*Poa palustris*) has smaller (3-5 mm), lanceolate florets in a more sparsely flowered inflorescence; the leaf sheaths are open for > 75% of their length.

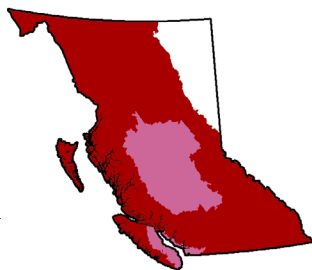


# Mountain Hairgrass

*Vahlodea atropurpurea*

Wf13

Wf50



## Key Characters

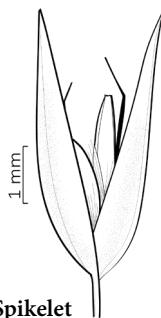
- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 80 cm tall, loosely tufted.
- **Leaves:** Flat with folded tips, lax, to 8.5 mm wide, often soft-hairy; lower sheaths stiff-hairy; ligules round-tipped and fringed with fine hairs.
- **Inflorescence:** 20 cm long, paniculate, strongly drooping.
- **Fruits:** Spikelets 2-flowered; glumes longer than the lemmas, keeled, purplish; lemmas with a single bent awn from the midpoint, bases with bristle-like hairs that are about half as long as the lemma.



Inflorescence.



Spikelets.



Spikelet



Inflorescence.

## Similar Species

**Hairgrasses** (*Deschampsia* spp.) have narrower (< 3 mm), folded leaves and pointed ligules.

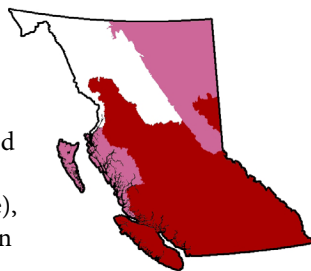
# Common Cattail

*Typha latifolia*

Wm05

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Emergent, erect, unbranched stems up to 2.5 m in height.
- **Leaves:** Long, erect, flattened (to 3 cm wide), grass-like, strongly sheathing the stem, often exceeding the flower spike.
- **Flowers:** Terminal, 2-parted spikes with the portions not separated. Upper half of spike bears fluffy, yellow-brown male flowers that are shed early to leave a barren spike; lower half bears a thick, cylindrical, dark brown, densely flowered spike of female flowers that are persistent through winter after flowering.
- **Fruits:** Tiny nutlets with long, slender hairs at the base.



Growth form.



Leaves

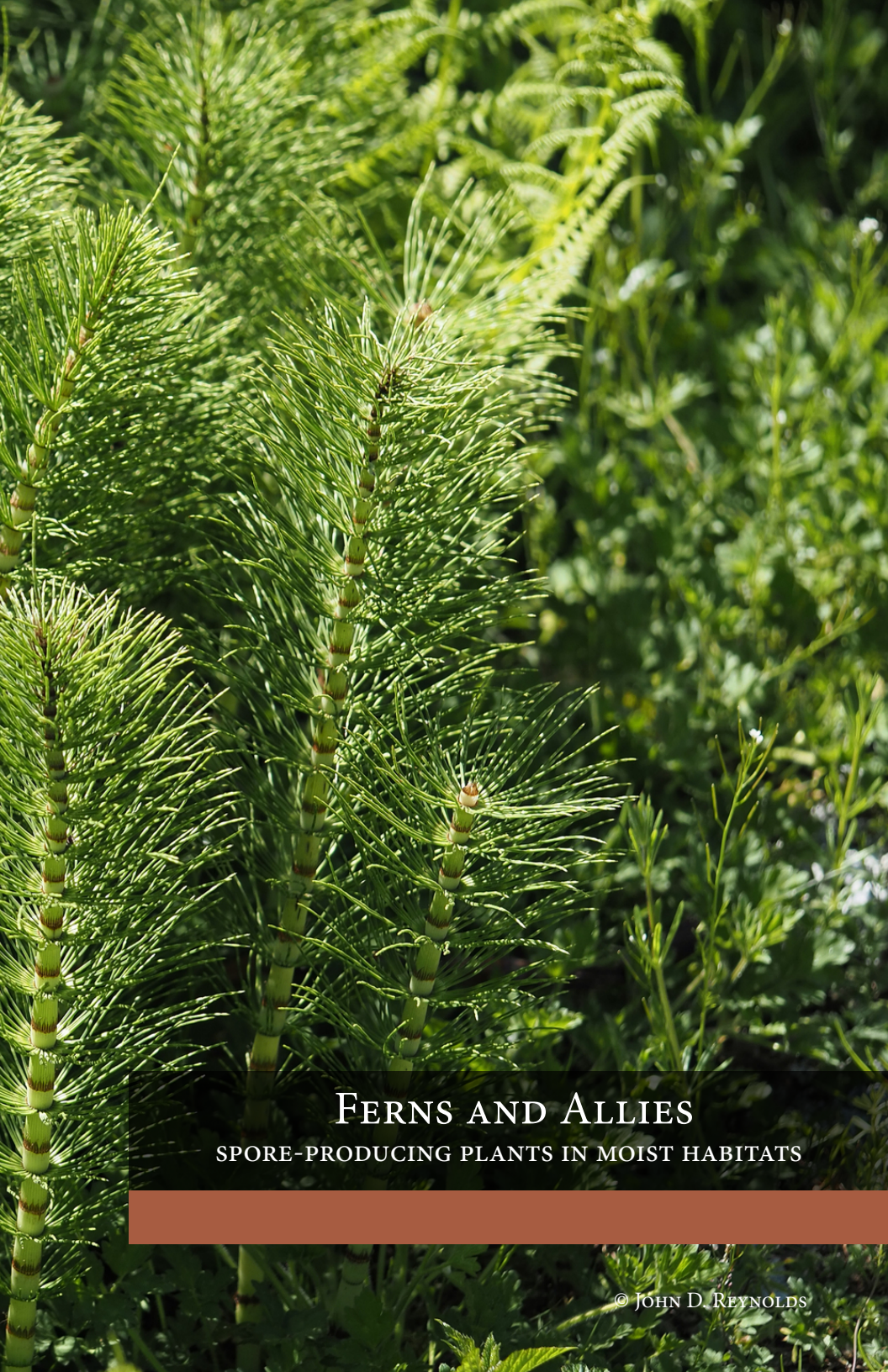


Flower.

## Similar Species

**Narrow-leaved cattail** (*T. angustifolia*) is a problematic invasive species in SW BC; it has narrower leaves (0.5-1.2 cm wide) and the male portion of the flowering spike is separated from the female portion by short (1-8 cm) length of bare stem.





# FERNS AND ALLIES

SPORE-PRODUCING PLANTS IN MOIST HABITATS

# Lady Fern

*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclosorum*

Ws01

Ws09

Ws10

Ws11

Ws51

Ws52

Ws53

Ws54

Ws55

Fl01

Fl02

Fl04

Fm03

Fm50



## Key Characters

- Leaves:** Large (to 120+ cm long), deciduous, usually clustered into vase-shaped clumps. Leaves twice-compound, broadly lanceolate in outline, pinnae becoming gradually shorter towards the base of the leaf; pinnae lanceolate in outline, divided into oblong, round-toothed divisions. Sori on underside of leaf kidney-shaped, partially covered by a small crescent-shaped flap.



Growth form.



Underside of leaf.



Leaves.



Growth form.

## Similar Species

**Spreading Wood Fern** (*Dryopteris expansa*), has smaller (to 70 cm long), semi-evergreen leaves that are widest towards the leaf base due to enlarged basal pinnae; the sori are rounded and covered by a heart-shaped flap.

# Common Horsetail

*Equisetum arvense*

Ws01	Ws03	Ws06	Ws07	Ws08
Ws09	Ws10	Ws11	Ws51	Wb01
Wb03	Wb05	Wb07	Wb08	Wb09
Fl01	Fl02	Fl03	Fl04	Fl50
Fl51	Fm02	Fm03		



## Key Characters

- Growth form:** Produces separate fertile and sterile stems; stems jointed. Fertile stems appear before sterile stems and soon wither, weak-stemmed, solitary, erect, pinkish-brown with several dark brown, toothed sheaths, terminating in a pale, oblong, cone-like strobilus with spores. Sterile stems green, creeping to erect, 10-12 ridged, with whorls of slender, jointed branches; first internode of branches longer than the adjacent stem sheath; stem sheaths with 10-12 blackish teeth.



Growth form.



Nodes.



Strobili.

## Similar Species

**Marsh horsetail** (*Equisetum palustre*) is often larger and more sparsely branched, and does not have separate fertile and sterile stems; the stem has fewer (5-10) ridges and a smaller central cavity; stem sheaths with white-margined teeth.

**Meadow horsetail** (*Equisetum pratense*) has finer branches with the first internode being longer than the adjacent stem sheath; sheath teeth with whitish margins.

# Swamp Horsetail

*Equisetum fluviatile*

Wm02

Wf05

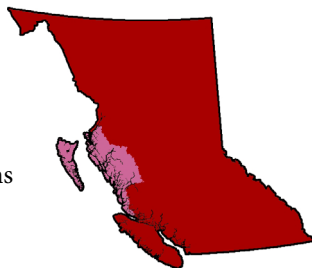
Wf06

Wf07

Wf08

## Key Characters

- Growth form:** Does not produce separate fertile and sterile stems; stems jointed. Stems erect, hollow with a large central cavity, to 150 cm tall, with whorls of fine branches (often sporadic) at the nodes or sometimes unbranched, shallowly 10-30 ridged, green-sheathed at the nodes; sheath teeth 10-30, slender, black, persistent. Cone-like strobili produced at stem tip, oblong, rounded at the tip, deciduous.



Growth form.



Nodes.



Growth form.



Strobili.

## Similar Species

**Scouring-rush** (*Equisetum hyemale*) consistently lacks branching and has coarse, evergreen stems with grey-and-black-banded stem sheaths; the strobilus is firm, persistent, and sharply pointed at the tip.

**Marsh horsetail** (*Equisetum palustre*) has a more slender, deeply 5-10 ridged stem with a much smaller central cavity; stem sheaths with 5-10 lanceolate, white-margined teeth.

# Scouring Rush

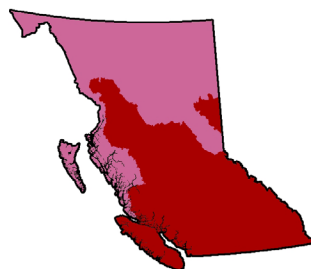
*Equisetum hyemale* ssp. *affine*

Fl06

Fm01

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Stems erect, to 120 cm tall, coarse. Stems evergreen, dark green, unbranched (usually), hollow with a large central cavity, finely and shallowly ridged, sheathed at the nodes. Stem sheaths greyish with black bands at top and/or bottom, apex with 15-50 small black teeth that are quickly shed. Cone-like strobilus terminal at top of stem, firm, brownish to blackish, sharp-pointed at the apex.



Growth form.



Nodes.



Strobilus.

## Similar Species

**Northern scouring-rush** (*Equisetum variegatum*) is a smaller, finer species with fewer (3-12) stem ridges; sheath teeth 3-12, persistent; stems less erect, to 55 cm tall.

**Smooth scouring-rush** (*Equisetum laevigatum*) is largely an upland species of dry habitats; it has smoother, deciduous stems; the apex of the strobili are rounded.

# Giant Horsetail

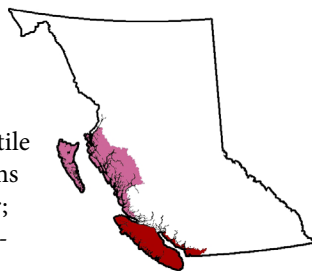
*Equisetum telmateia*

Wb52

Wb53

## Key Characters

- Growth form:** Stems produces separate fertile and sterile stems; stems jointed. Fertile stems appear before sterile stems and soon wither; robust, solitary or clustered, erect, greenish-brown with numerous coppery-brown, toothed sheaths, terminating in a pale, elongate, cone-like strobilus with spores. Sterile stems green, erect, shallowly 15-30 ridged, with regular whorls of slender, jointed branches; stem sheaths pale greenish with 15-30 brownish teeth.



Growth form.



Nodes.



Strobilus.

## Similar Species

**Common horsetail** (*Equisetum arvense*) is a smaller, more slender species that has smaller, weak-stemmed, pinkish-brown fertile stems with oblong strobili; the sterile stems are 10-12 ridged, and have fewer (10-12) teeth at the sheath apex.



A SWAMP  
SHUSWAP REGION  
© EMMA KINGSLAND

# Oak Ferns

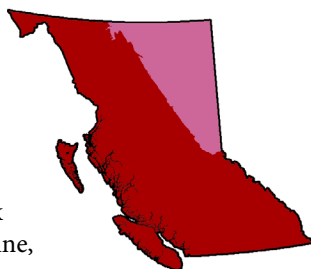
*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*

Ws10

Ws11

## Key Characters

- Leaves:** Small leaves (to 24 cm long) often forming carpets of individual leaves. Long-stalked, deciduous, thin-textured. Leaves 2x to 3x compound, broadly triangular in outline, basal pinnae much enlarged and triangular. Sori on underside of leaf small, rounded, not covered by a flap.



© John D. Reynolds

Growth form.



© John D. Reynolds

Sori.

## Similar Species

Oak ferns as a group are distinctive in B.C.; the two component species of this complex (*Gymnocarpium disjunctum*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*) are extremely similar and occupy similar habitats where they occur.

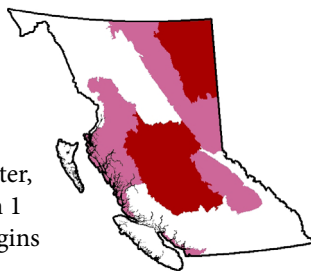
# Ostrich Fern

*Matteuccia struthiopteris* var. *pensylvanica*

Fl02

## Key Characters

- **Growth Form:** Leaves clustered into vase-shaped clumps with fertile leaves in the center, sterile leaves surrounding. Sori produced in 1 row on underside of strongly recurved margins of fertile pinnae.
- **Leaves:** Two kinds. Fertile leaves densely clumped, erect, to 60 cm tall, brownish or blackish, hardened, persisting through winter. Sterile leaves erect, large (to 175 cm), deciduous, 1-compound, oblanceolate in outline, broadest above the midpoint and with a long-tapering base; pinnae linear with deeply round-lobed margins.



Growth form.



Leaves.



Sori.

## Similar Species

**Lady fern** (*Athyrium filix-femina*) does not have separate hardened, persistent fertile leaves; the leaves are twice-compound and are broadest around the midpoint.

# Sword Fern

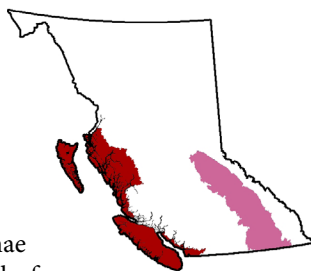
*Polystichum munitum*

Ws54

Ws55

## Key Characters

- Leaves:** Large leaves (to 150 cm long), clumped and very short stalked, spreading from a central point. Evergreen, leathery, once-compound, lanceolate in outline, pinnae not gradually shorter towards the leaf base, leaf stalk and midrib densely papery-scaly; pinnae lanceolate, fine-toothed, sharp-pointed, with a triangular lobe at the base. Sori discrete, rounded, rusty-brown.



Growth form.

© John D. Reynolds



Sori.



Growth form.

© John D. Reynolds

## Similar Species

**Deer fern** (*Struthiopteris spicant*) has separate fertile and sterile blades; the pinnae are unstalked and continuous with the midrib, and the leaf stalks are not papery-scaly.

# Deer Fern

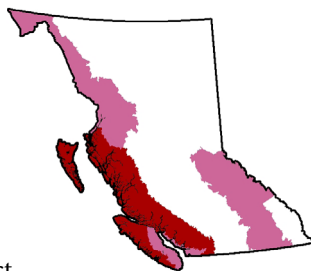
*Struthiopteris spicant*

Ws54

Ws55

## Key Characters

- **Growth form:** Leaves of two kinds, with sterile leaves surrounding the fertile leaves. Sori continuous in a line on underside of fertile leaf pinnae.
- **Leaves:** Fertile leaves densely clumped, erect, to 50 cm tall, deeply pinnately cleft and appearing once-compound, firm, pinnae linear and with strongly inrolled margins. Sterile leaves spreading, evergreen, leathery, to 70 cm long, lanceolate in outline and with a long-tapering base, dark green, deeply pinnately cleft and appearing once-compound, pinnae linear-lanceolate and continuous with midrib.



Leaves.



Growth form.



Underside of leaf.

## Similar Species

**Sword fern** (*Polystichum munitum*) has larger leaves (to 150 cm long) and lacks separate fertile leaves and has larger leaves; the leaves are truly pinnate, with the individual pinnae having very short stalks, and produce discrete circular, rusty-brown sori on the underside.

# APPENDIX 1

## WETLAND ASSOCIATED SITES

### BOGS

- Wb01 Black spruce – Creeping-snowberry – Peat-moss
- Wb02 Lodgepole pine – Bog rosemary – Peat-moss
- Wb03 Black spruce – Lingonberry – Peat-moss
- Wb04 Western hemlock – Cloudberry – Peat-moss
- Wb05 Black spruce – Water sedge – Peat-moss
- Wb06 Tamarack – Water sedge – Fen moss
- Wb07 Lodgepole pine – Water sedge – Peat-moss
- Wb08 Black spruce – Soft-leaved sedge – Peat-moss
- Wb09 Black spruce – Common horsetail – Peat-moss
- Wb10 Lodgepole pine – Few-flowered sedge – Peat-moss
- Wb11 Black spruce – Buckbean – Peat-moss
- Wb12 Scheuchzeria – Peat-moss
- Wb13 Shore sedge – Buckbean – Peat-moss
- Wb50 Labrador tea – Bog-laurel – Peat-moss
- Wb51 Shore pine – Black crowberry – Tough peat-moss
- Wb52 Common juniper – Tufted clubrush – Hoary rock-moss
- Wb53 Shore pine – Yellow-cedar – Tufted clubrush

### FENS

- Wf01 Water sedge – Beaked sedge
- Wf02 Scrub birch – Water sedge
- Wf03 Water sedge – Peat-moss
- Wf04 Barclay's willow – Water sedge – Glow moss
- Wf05 Slender sedge – Common hook-moss
- Wf06 Slender sedge – Buckbean
- Wf07 Scrub birch – Buckbean – Shore sedge
- Wf08 Shore sedge – Buckbean – Hook-moss
- Wf09 Few-flowered spike-rush – Hook-moss
- Wf10 Hudson Bay clubrush – Red hook-moss
- Wf11 Tufted clubrush – Star moss
- Wf12 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Marsh-marigold
- Wf13 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Shore sedge
- Wf50 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Peat-moss
- Wf51 Sitka sedge – Peat-moss
- Wf52 Sweet gale – Sitka sedge
- Wf53 Slender sedge – White beak-rush

Wm01 Beaked sedge – Water sedge  
 Wm02 Swamp horsetail – Beaked sedge  
 Wm03 Awned sedge  
 Wm04 Common spike-rush  
 Wm05 Cattail  
 Wm06 Great bulrush  
 Wm07 Baltic rush  
 Wm08 Sitka sedge – Hemlock-parsley  
 Wm09 Three-way sedge

Ws01 Mountain alder – Skunk cabbage – Lady fern  
 Ws02 Mountain alder – Pink spirea – Sitka sedge  
 Ws03 Bebb's willow – Bluejoint  
 Ws04 Drummond's willow – Beaked sedge  
 Ws05 MacCalla's willow – Beaked sedge  
 Ws06 Sitka willow – Sitka sedge  
 Ws07 Spruce – Common horsetail – Leafy moss  
 Ws08 Subalpine fir – Sitka valerian – Common horsetail  
 Ws09 Black spruce – Skunk cabbage – Peat-moss  
 Ws10 Western redcedar – Spruce – Skunk cabbage  
 Ws11 Spruce – Subalpine fir – Skunk cabbage  
 Ws12 Pink spirea – Sitka sedge  
 Ws13 Sitka willow – Pacific willow – Skunk cabbage  
 Ws14 Red alder – Skunk cabbage  
 Ws15 Western redcedar – Sword fern – Skunk cabbage  
 Ws43 Western redcedar – Western hemlock – Skunk cabbage  
 Ws55 Yellow-cedar – Mountain hemlock – Skunk cabbage

Fl01 Mountain alder – Common horsetail  
 Fl02 Mountain alder – Red-osier dogwood – Lady fern  
 Fl03 Pacific willow – Red-osier dogwood – Horsetail  
 Fl04 Sitka willow – Red-osier dogwood – Horsetail  
 Fl05 Drummond's willow – Bluejoint  
 Fl06 Sandbar willow  
 Fl07 Water birch – Rose  
 Fl09 Sitka willow – False lily-of-the-valley  
 Fl13 Red alder – Salmonberry – Horsetail  
 Fm01 Cottonwood – Snowberry – Rose  
 Fm02 Cottonwood – Spruce – Red-osier dogwood  
 Fm03 Cottonwood – Subalpine fir – Devil's club  
 Fm50 Cottonwood – Red alder – Salmonberry

## APPENDIX 2

### PHOTO CONTRIBUTORS

<i>Abies amabilis</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>	Ryan Durand, John D. Reynolds
<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Ryan Durand, John D. Reynolds
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Ryan Durand, John D. Reynolds, Kendall McLaughlin, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Actaea rubra</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Alnus incana</i>	John D. Reynolds, Nadia Pagliaro
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	Ryan Durand, John D. Reynolds, Cassie Friesen, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	John D. Reynolds, Rebekah Ingram
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Ryan Durand, Cassie Friesen, John D. Reynolds
<i>Betula glandulosa</i>	Syd Cannings, John D. Reynolds, Birch Matkowski
<i>Betula occidentalis</i>	Finn McGhee, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Don A. Sutherland, Colin Jones, John D. Reynolds
<i>Callitropsis nootkatensis</i>	John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand, Finn McGhee
<i>Caltha leptosepala</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex anthoxanthea</i>	Jamie Fenneman, Finn McGhee
<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex atherodes</i>	Ryan Durand
<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i>	Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex disperma</i>	Syd Cannings, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex exsiccata</i>	Finn McGhee, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	Colin Jones, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex limosa</i>	David Greenberger, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex livida</i>	Kyla Rushton, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex magellanica ssp. irrigua</i>	John D. Reynolds, Jason Straka, Trevor Van Loon

<i>Carex pauciflora</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex pluriflora</i>	Abe Lloyd
<i>Carex sitchensis</i>	Abe Lloyd, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Carex tenuiflora</i>	Jeremy Collision, Jamie Fenneman, Finn McGhee
<i>Carex utriculata</i>	Bruce Bennett, Don A. Sutherland, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Cicuta douglasii</i>	Rebekah Ingram, John D. Reynolds
<i>Circaea alpina</i>	Don A. Sutherland, John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Comarum palustre</i>	Syd Cannings, John D. Reynolds, Colin Jones
<i>Coptis trifolia</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	John D. Reynolds, Colin Jones
<i>Drosera anglica</i>	Rebekah Ingram, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	John D. Reynolds, Jason Straka
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	John D. Reynolds, Finn McGhee
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Colin Jones, John D. Reynolds
<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>	Don A. Sutherland, John D. Reynolds
<i>Elliotia pyroliflora</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Syd Cannings, John D. Reynolds, Colin Jones
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Kendall McLaughlin, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand
<i>Equisetum hyemale ssp. affine</i>	Wasył Bakowsky, John D. Reynolds
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	John D. Reynolds, Jamie Fenneman
<i>Eriophorum chamissonis</i>	Ryan Durand, Rebekah Ingram
<i>Galium trifidum ssp. trifidum</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Gaultheria hispidula</i>	Ryan Durand, Nadia Pagliaro
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Neal Foord, Kendall McLaughlin, Lynda Stevens
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	John D. Reynolds

<i>Heracleum maximum</i>	John D. Reynolds, Jamie Long, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	Syd Cannings, Ryan Durand
<i>Hypericum anagalloides</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Don A. Sutherland, John D. Reynolds
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Ryan Durand, John D. Reynolds
<i>Kalmia microphylla</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Larix laricina</i>	John D. Reynolds, Rebekah Ingram, Birch Matkowski
<i>Leptarrhena pyrolifolia</i>	John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i> var. <i>involucrata</i>	John D. Reynolds, Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> var. <i>pensylvanica</i>	John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand, Colin Jones
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Syd Cannings, Ryan Durand, Alana Higginson, Birch Matkowski
<i>Myrica gale</i>	John D. Reynolds, Jamie Long
<i>Nephrophyllidium crista-galli</i>	John D. Reynolds, Lynda Stevens
<i>Nuphar polysepala</i>	Kendall McLaughlin, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Oenanthë sarmentosa</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>	Neal Foord, Courtney Geuze, Jamie Long, Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Osmorhiza berteroi</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Birch Matkowski
<i>Picea x albertiana</i>	Ryan Durand
<i>Picea mariana</i>	Ryan Durand, Rebekah Ingram
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>contorta</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	Syd Cannings, Ryan Durand
<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	John D. Reynolds, Cassie Friesen

<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	Rob Routeledge, Eric Schmidt, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> ssp. <i>anserina</i>	Ryan Durand, Trevor Van Loon, Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>	Syd Cannings, John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	Ryan Durand, Alana Higginson, Jamie Long, Birch Matkowski
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	Ryan Durand, Finn McGhee, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Ribes bracteosum</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Rosa acicularis</i> ssp. <i>sayi</i>	Syd Cannings, Jamie Fenneman, Birch Matkowski
<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	John D. Reynolds, Jamie Long
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	Ryan Durand, Rebekah Ingram
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Kendall McLaughlin, Lynda Stevens, Matthew Syvenky
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Trevor Van Loon, John D. Reynolds
<i>Salix barclayi</i>	Bruce Bennett, John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand
<i>Salix bebbiana</i>	Don A. Sutherland, Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Salix drummondiana</i>	Jamie Fenneman
<i>Salix exigua</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	Don A. Sutherland, Scott Bailey, Fen Levy
<i>Salix maccalliana</i>	Ryan Durand
<i>Salix myrtillofolia</i>	Bruce Bennett, Syd Cannings
<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	Neal Foord, John D. Reynolds
<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	Trevor Van Loon, Finn McGhee, Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>arborescens</i>	Stephan Clifford, Neal Foord
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Sanguisorba stipulata</i>	John D. Reynolds, Liz Wass

<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>	Syd Cannings, Ryan Durand, Jamie Fenneman
<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i>	Don A. Sutherland, John D. Reynolds
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	John D. Reynolds, Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand, Jamie Fenneman
<i>Senecio triangularis</i>	Colin Jones, John D. Reynolds
<i>Sium suave</i>	Trevor Van Loon
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	John D. Reynolds, Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Stachys cooleyae</i>	Ryan Durand, Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Streptopus lanceolatus</i>	Don A. Sutherland, John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand
<i>Struthiopteris spicant</i>	Ryan Durand, Kyla Rushton
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Symphyotrichum subspicatum</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	John D. Reynolds, Nikko Ippolito
<i>Triantha glutinosa</i>	John D. Reynolds, Jason Straka, Trevor Van Loon,
<i>Trichophorum alpinum</i>	Trevor Van Loon
<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>	John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand
<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	John D. Reynolds, Birch Matkowski, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>	John D. Reynolds
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Kendall McLaughlin
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Jamie Fenneman, Matthew Syvenky
<i>Utricularia vulgaris ssp. macrorrhiza</i>	Don A. Sutherland, John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand
<i>Vaccinium alaskaense</i>	Steve Ansell, Jamie Fenneman, Kitty LaBounty, Abe Lloyd
<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>	Trevor Van Loon, John D. Reynolds

<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	John D. Reynolds, Ryan Durand, Colin Jones
<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	Don A. Sutherland, Syd Canning, John D. Reynolds, Birch Matkowski,
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Syd Cannings, Birch Matkowski
<i>Vahlodea atropurpurea</i>	John D. Reynolds, Finn McGhee, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Valeriana sitchensis</i>	Trevor Van Loon
<i>Veratrum viride</i>	Trevor Van Loon
<i>Viburnum edule</i>	Syd Cannings, John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon
<i>Viola palustris</i>	John D. Reynolds, Trevor Van Loon



## ABOUT THE B.C. WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The BCWF is British Columbia's leading conservation organization, representing more than 43,000 members—including conservationists, biologists, hunters, and anglers. For over 60 years, the BCWF has been committed to protecting, enhancing, and promoting the wise use of fish, wildlife, and habitat across the province for the benefit of present and future generations.

As a recognized leader in wetland restoration and education, the BCWF's Conservation Stewardship Department—commonly referred to as the Watershed Team—works in partnership with First Nations, government agencies, environmental organizations, academic institutions, and local communities to advance watershed restoration, monitoring, and outreach efforts.

The Conservation Stewardship Department's education programs foster grassroots, community-driven conservation and support watershed health across B.C. Through initiatives such as the Wetlands Education Program (WEP) and the Fish Habitat Restoration and Education Program (FHREP), the BCWF delivers courses, workshops, and outreach events that equip individuals and communities with the knowledge and tools needed to steward their local environments.

In addition to education and on-the-ground restoration, the Watershed Team is actively developing innovative tools to support science-based conservation and land-use decision-making. These tools help evaluate wetland functions, guide restoration planning, and improve mapping and classification efforts.

This guidebook builds on the BCWF's long-standing expertise and commitment to watershed conservation, providing a trusted wetland plant identification resource for people across the province.

For more information, visit:



[www.bcwf.bc.ca](http://www.bcwf.bc.ca)



[www.bcwfwatershedteam.ca](http://www.bcwfwatershedteam.ca)



# YOUR GUIDE TO B.C.'S WETLAND FLORA

THIS FIELD GUIDE FROM THE B.C. WILDLIFE FEDERATION SUPPORTS THE IDENTIFICATION OF WETLAND PLANTS ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA. DESIGNED FOR PRACTICAL USE IN THE FIELD, IT SUPPORTS STEWARDSHIP, WETLAND IDENTIFICATION, AND A DEEPER CONNECTION TO WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS.

## EACH SPECIES ACCOUNT INCLUDES:

- COLOUR-CODED HEADERS INDICATING GROWTH FORM
  - ENGLISH AND LATIN NAMES
- PHOTOGRAPHS HIGHLIGHTING KEY CHARACTERISTICS
  - A GENERALIZED DISTRIBUTION MAP
- COMMON WETLAND SITE ASSOCIATIONS
  - KEY IDENTIFICATION FEATURES
  - COMPARISONS TO SIMILAR SPECIES

OFFERED AS A FREE RESOURCE TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION, THIS GUIDE WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF BCWF STAFF, PARTNERS, AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS. IF YOU FIND IT VALUABLE, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO SUPPORT FUTURE EDITIONS AND ONGOING CONSERVATION WORK.



© 2025 B.C. Wildlife Federation. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission from the B.C. Wildlife Federation. This guide may not be sold or used for commercial purposes without express authorization.

