

A photograph of a forest floor covered in a dense carpet of yellow wildflowers, likely lupines, with tall, slender pine trees standing in the background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# Wildflower Identification

Flower Books

Washington Wildflower Search App

Photos either: @ Burke Herbarium Image Collection  
@ Thomas Bancroft



# Key Concepts

- Use all the information you can get
- Look for more than one characteristic
- Geographic Location including elevation
- Habitat at that location
- Time of Year
- Expect Variation in a species
- Everyone makes mistakes in identification



# Goals for this Section

- Show you a few tools for Identifying plants
- Demonstrate identification with those Tools
- So you feel comfortable using them
- Work singly, in pairs, or small groups
- **Rules for These Exercises**
  - Do not blurt out plant names if you know
  - Work through key
  - Let others work through key
  - Help Each other



# Leaning Concepts

- It is about observation not memorization
- Yes, you will need to Learn some things



# Flower Books & Family Charts

- Taxonomic Order or by Flower Color
- Dichotomous Keys







# Identify Family & then use Pojar

- Do not blurt out plant name if you know it.
- Keep that to yourself until the end.
- Use First Stewart's Chart to identify family
- Stop for a second until we all have the family figured out.
- Then go to that section of Pojar











published very soon by the Royal B.C. Museum to cover the rest of the composites. Cronquist (1955, vol. 1 of Hitchcock et al. 1955-69) is still very useful but covers only the southern half of our region.

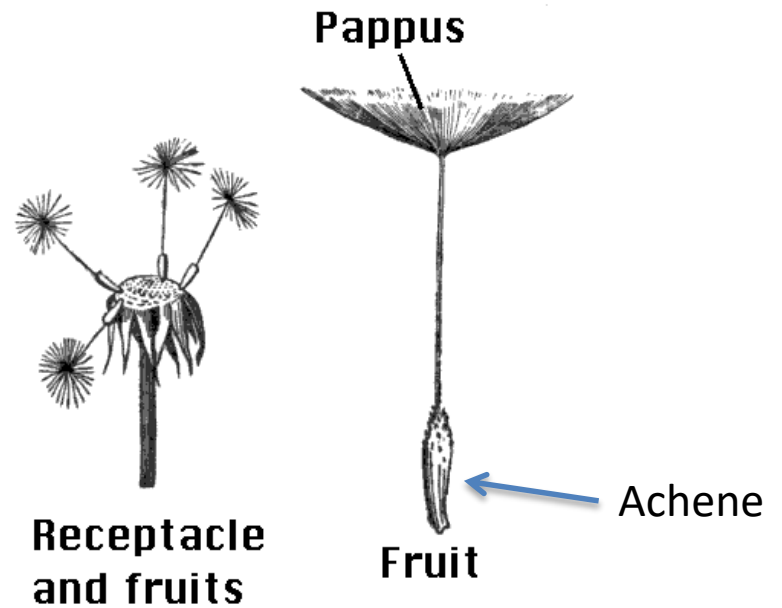
## Key to Genera of the Sunflower Family

- 1a. Flowers all ray-like or strap-shaped; plants with milky juice ..... Group I
- 1b. Flowers not all ray-like, some or all of them tubular; plants mostly with watery juice ..... 2
  - 2a. Ray flowers present ..... 3
    - 3a. Ray flowers white, pink, purple, red or blue, never yellow or orange ..... Group II
    - 3b. Ray flowers mostly yellow or orange ..... 4
      - 4a. Pappus chaffy (of bracts or scales) or of firm awns, or absent ..... Group III
      - 4b. Pappus of hair-like or feathery bristles ..... Group IV
  - 2b. Ray flowers lacking, all flowers tubular ..... 5
    - 5a. Pappus of hair-like or feathery bristles ..... Group V
    - 5b. Pappus of scales or awns, or a mere crown ..... Group VI

### Group I: Flowers all ray-like or strap-shaped; juice milky (the dandelion tribe)

- 1a. Achenes without a pappus ..... *Lapsana*
- 1b. Achenes with a pappus ..... 2
  - 2a. Pappus of simple bristles only (these sometimes finely barbed) ..... 3
    - 3a. Plants without stem leaves, leaves all in basal rosette; heads solitary ..... 4
      - 4a. Achenes roughened with tiny spines and ridges ..... *Taraxacum*
      - 4b. Achenes smooth or nearly so ..... 5
        - 5a. Achenes beaked ..... *Agoseris*
        - 5b. Achenes beakless ..... *Microseris* and some *Agoseris glauca*
    - 3b. Plants with at least some stem leaves; heads few to several ..... 6
      - 6a. Stem leaves well-developed, broad, usually over 1 cm wide ..... 7
        - 7a. Leaves simple, toothed; flowers white; achenes cylindric ..... *Prenanthes*
        - 7b. Leaves, or at least some of them, deeply lobed; flowers yellow or blue; achenes flattened ..... 8
          - 8a. Achenes beaked (or beakless in *Lactuca biennis*); leaves not clasping-lobed at base ..... *Lactuca*
          - 8b. Achenes beakless; leaves with ear-like, clasping lobes at base ..... *Sonchus*
      - 6b. Stem leaves narrow, usually less than 1 cm wide, reduced in size up the stem ..... 9





Achene: a small dry, 1-seeded nut-like fruit

Pappus: The modified hairs or bristles on top of the achene



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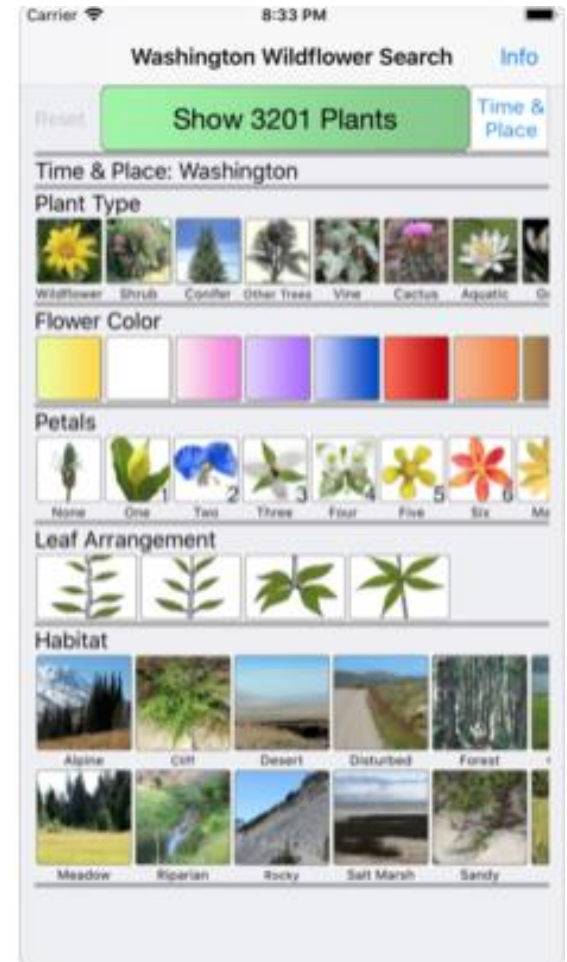




# WA Wildflower Search

3201 species

- Set Time and Place
- Set one or more of these
  - Plant type
  - Flower color
  - Petal Number & Style
  - Leaf Arrangement
  - Habitat
- Or can search by plant name or
- genus (doesn't have all variations
- of common names)
- Allows the keeping of a plant list for the day















Shrub

















# Summarize

- Use all the information you can get
- Look for more than one characteristic
- Geographic Location including elevation
- Habitat at that location
- Time of Year
- Expect Variation in a species

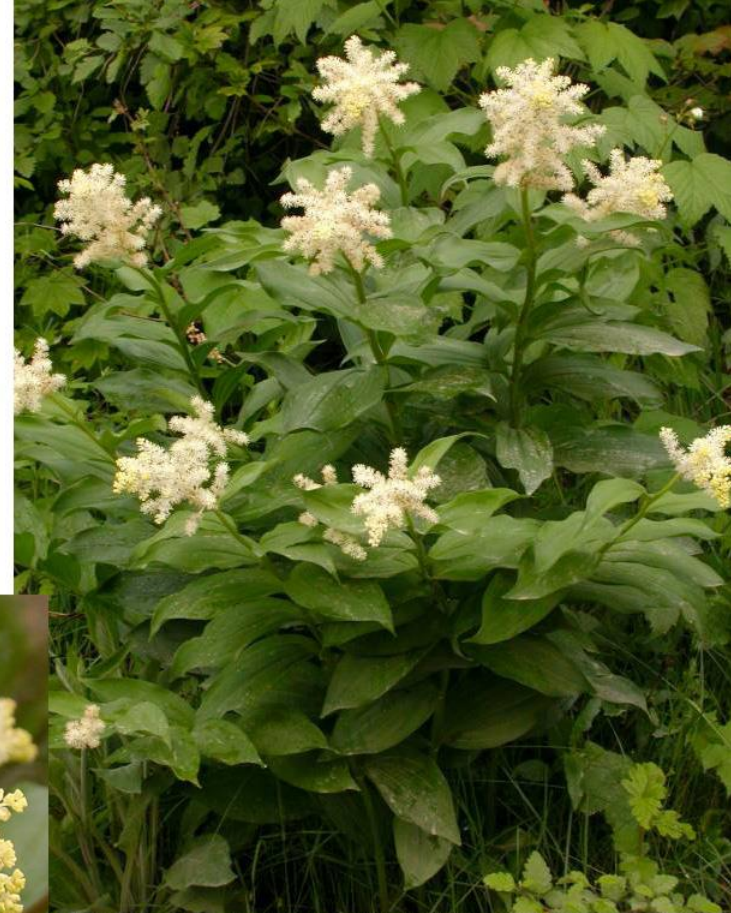






More Plants  
on the  
Common Family Plant Chart



















# In the Appendix

## Common Family Plant Chart







# Plants not on the Common Family Chart















Shrub

# Magnuson Park

April - May









# Plants in This Presentation

Common Name	Scientific name	Family	Common Family Name	Family In the Chart
Skunk Cabbage	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Araceae	Arum Family	No
Tall Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Berberidaceae	Barberry Family	No
Northern Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum compositum</i>	Polygonaceae	Buckwheat Family	Yes
Red Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	Yes
Redflower Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Grossulariaceae	Currant Family	Appendix
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Cornaceae	Dogwood Family	No
Coastal Penstemon	<i>Penstemon serrulatus</i>	Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	Yes
Stinky Bob	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	No
Common Camas	<i>Camassie quamash</i>	Liliaceae	Lily Family	Yes
Glacier Lily	<i>Erythronium grandiflorum</i>	Liliaceae	Lily Family	Yes
Large Leaf False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	Liliaceae	Lily Family	Yes
White Bog Orchid	<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	Yes
Fern Leaf Desert Parsley	<i>Lomatium dissectum</i>	Apiaceae	Parsley Family	Yes
Broadleaf Lupine	<i>Lupinus latifolius</i>	Fabaceae	Pea Family	Yes
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Rosaceae	Rose Family	Yes
English Lawn Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Asteraceae	Sunflower Family	Yes
Sweet Coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus</i>	Asteraceae	Sunflower Family	Yes
Pioneer Violet	<i>Viola glabella</i>	Violaceae	Violet Family	Yes
Oregon Wood-Sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregana</i>	Oxalidaceae	Wood-Sorrel Family	No