Composites
_Asteraceae_ (Aster family)

Features of the _Asteraceae_ (Aster or Sunflower Family)

Members of this family are called "composites" because what seems to be an individual separate flower is actually a complex or composite of many flowers in a head attached to a common receptacle and surrounded by a whorl of what appear to be sepals of the flower but are, in fact, bracts (involucre).

The heads can be of three forms:

1. discoid - when all the flowers have the petals fused into tubular corollas (all disk flowers) e.g., _Tanacetum vulgare_, (Tansy), _Antennaria_ spp. (Pussytoes)
2. ligulate - when the corollas are all strap-shaped (all ray flowers) e.g., _Taraxacum officinale_ (Dandelion)
3. radiate - when the outer corollas are ray flowers and the inner ones are disk flowers e.g., _Leucanthemum vulgare_ (Daisy), _Arnica_ spp. (Arnica), _Senecio_ spp. (Groundsel)

The receptacle which supports the flower head is often covered with bracts or scales known as chaff. Attached to the top of the ovary is a pappus of hairs, bristles, or scales.
Composites
Asteraceae (Aster family)

Achillea millefolium
(Yarrow)

HERB, perennial aromatic, often rhizomatous, 1-10 cm tall.

LEAVES — much pinnately dissected (a), only lower ones with petiole; young dried leaves used to make herbal tea.

FLOWERS — radiate heads (b) numerous, in flat to round topped inflorescence; rays 3-5 white, disk flowers yellow.

HABITAT — often on disturbed sites; throughout B.C.

Anaphalis margaritacea
(Pearly everlasting)

HERB, perennial, erect, rhizomatous 20-90 cm tall, leafy, loosely white woolly.

LEAVES — alternate, entire, narrowly oblong, sessile, less hairy above than below, edges rolled under.

FLOWERS — numerous discoid heads (a), crowded into a short broad inflorescence; involucral bracts pearly white, preserving well when dried.

HABITAT — occurring in forest openings, roadsides and pastures; lowlands to moderate elevations.
Composites
*Asteraceae* (Aster family)

**Antennaria neglecta**
(Field pussytoes)

HERB, perennial, mat-forming 15-40 cm tall, with well-developed stolons; stems with narrow, sessile leaves.

LEAVES — *basal leaves* (a) *spatula-shaped*, to almost elliptical lance-egg-shaped but largest above middle and tapering to base; *persistently densely hairy with white hairs beneath, thinly hairy to without hairs and green above*.

FLOWERS — discoid heads (b) several in dense head-like inflorescence, *soft and fluffy to touch; involucral bracts brown at base and tips white*, thin and transparent.

HABITAT — occurring in open woods at moderate and low elevations in drier sites in the ICHg3 subzone.

**Arnica cordifolia**
(Heart-leaved arnica)

HERB, perennial from long, nearly naked rhizomes; stems solitary or few loosely clustered, 10-60 cm tall.

LEAVES — *opposite*, basal ones long-petiolate, *heart-shaped*, mostly on separate short shoots; stem leaves 2-4 pairs, more or less heart-shaped; often coarsely toothed (a).

FLOWERS — 1-3 radiate heads, yellow, *involucre densely white-hairy; achenes short-hairy throughout*.

HABITAT — mostly in woodlands, lower to high elevations in mountains.

NOTE — the opposite leaf arrangement distinguishes *Arnica* from all other genera in the Aster family.
Composites
Asteraceae (Aster family)

Arnica latifolia var. latifolia
(Mountain arnica)

HERB, perennial, stem 10-60 cm tall, glandular and sometimes hairy; appearing more leafy than A. cordifolia.

LEAVES — opposite, basal ones long-petiolate, sometimes on separate shoots; stem leaves 2-4 pairs, more or less sessile, glandular-hairy; rarely heart-shaped, usually broadly lance-shaped (a).

FLOWERS — radiate heads, 1-several, yellow; involucre with few or no long hairs, achenes glabrous below or throughout.

HABITAT — moist woods and meadows, moderate to high elevations.

Aster ciliolatus
(Lindley’s aster)

HERB, perennial, with long creeping rhizomes, 0.2-1.2 m tall.

LEAVES — sharp-pointed at tip; basal and lower stem leaves with long petioles (a); blades broadly egg-shaped to lance-shaped, rounded or heart shaped at base, sharply serrate, often deciduous; upper leaves abruptly narrowed to the broadly winged petiole margin ciliate, often less toothed; uppermost leaves lance-shaped, sessile and entire.

FLOWERS — radiate heads (b) few in open inflorescence; ray flower blue, disk flowers yellow.

HABITAT — woodlands and clearings. An interior species particularly common in mesic and moister seral stands of the lICHg3 and SBS.
Composites
*Asteraceae* (Aster family)

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**Aster conspicuus**
(*Showy aster*)

HERB, stout perennial with creeping rhizome, 0.3-1 m tall, strongly glandular above.

LEAVES — firm, sharply toothed, oval, mostly *sessile* (a); the lower-most ones small and soon deciduous.

FLOWERS — radiate heads (b), few to many in an open inflorescence; rays blue or violet, and disk flowers yellow; *involucre* (c) *densely glandular*.

HABITAT — open woods; low to moderate elevations. Very common in interior SBS and ICHg3, especially in seral aspen stands.

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**Aster subspicatus var. subspicatus**
(*Douglas’ aster*)

HERB, perennial, with elongate rhizome or thickened stem base, mostly 20-80 cm tall. *Extremely variable species.*

LEAVES — toothed, sharp-pointed at tip, without hairs; basal leaves smaller than stem leaves, often deciduous; *stem leaves lance-shaped to oblong, or elliptic; lower leaves petiolate, middle or upper ones sessile and clasping.*

FLOWERS — radiate heads (a) solitary or few to several in round-topped clusters; *ray flowers purple.*

HABITAT — seashores, streambanks, moist woods, meadows and roadsides. Found on the coast and in the interior.
Composites
*Asteraceae* (Aster family)

**Chamomilla suaveolens**
*(Pineappleweed)*

HERB. annual, 5-40 cm tall, branching, leafy, *pineapple-scented*, smooth.

LEAVES — stem leaves 1-5 cm long, 1-3 times pinnatifid, ultimate segments short, linear or thread-like, smooth; basal leaves withered by flowering time.

FLOWERS — discoid heads; disk flowers initially green, then yellow; receptacle (a) conic shaped; *involucral bracts* (b) *below inflorescence with broad, thin, translucent margins*; heads used for herbal tea.

HABITAT — roadsides and waste places.

**Leucanthemum vulgare**
*(Oxeye daisy)*

HERB. perennial with more or less well developed rhizomes; stem 20-80 cm tall, simple or nearly so.

LEAVES — basal ones spatulate, petiolate, cleft or lobed; upper ones reduced, becoming *sessile, blunt-toothed*.

FLOWERS — *radiate head solitary, ray flowers white, disk flowers yellow*; involucral bracts (a) with narrow dark brown marginal area.

HABITAT — fields, roadsides, waste places; weed of European origin.
**Composites**
*Asteraceae* (Aster family)

**Petasites palmatus**
(Sweet colt’s-foot)

HERB, perennial, from creeping rhizomes; stem erect, 10-50 cm tall.

LEAVES — basal leaves long petioled, hairy with white hairs beneath, *palmately or pinnipalmately veined and lobed*, serrate, expanding with or shortly after flowers; bracts on stem in shingled arrangement.

FLOWERS — inflorescence with several or numerous heads, *heads bell-shaped; flowers whitish, appearing early in the year, usually before the leaves*.

HABITAT — meadows, swampy places, moist woods. Found throughout the Skeena area, most common in interior forests (ICH and SBS) where it rarely flowers.

**Petasites sagittatus**
(Arrow-leaved colt’s-foot)

HERB, similar to *P. palmatus*.

LEAVES — basal leaves serrate, with 20-45 teeth each side, or almost entire, pinnipalmately veined, heart-shaped or more commonly *arrowhead-shaped*; bracts of stem longer and narrower than *P. palmatus*.

FLOWERS — whitish.

HABITAT — found in places such as wet meadows and rich, wet marsh edges. Generally occurs on alluvial sites in the interior.
**Composites**

*Asteraceae* (Aster family)

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**Senecio triangularis**

(Arrowleaved groundsel)

**Tanacetum vulgare**

(Common tansy)

**HERB**, several-stemmed, coarse and lush perennial, 0.3-1.5 m tall.

**LEAVES** — numerous, *narrowly triangular*, strongly toothed; those *near the base with long petioles*, those *above* becoming *sessile*.

**FLOWERS** — radiate heads, few to numerous, in short, flat-topped inflorescence; yellow ray flowers 8, disk flowers yellow; involucral bracts (a) equal, black-tipped.

**HABITAT** — streambanks and moist places; moderate to high elevations. A good indicator of subalpine (ESSF and MH) and Alpine Tundra zones. *When abundant this species indicates areas of late snow cover.*

**HERB**, coarse aromatic, 0.4-1.5 m tall, from stout rhizome.

**LEAVES** — numerous, 1-2 cm long; *dotted with small glandular pits*; pinnatifid (a), pinnae pinnatifid or deeply lobed; pinnules toothed; basal leaves commonly withered by flowering time.

**FLOWERS** — heads discoid, numerous, commonly 20-200 flat-topped inflorescence; *flowers golden yellow*.

**HABITAT** — roadsides, fields, waste places; native of Old World, escaped from cultivation. Common along the highway between Terrace and Prince Rupert.
Composites

*Asteraceae* (Aster family)

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*Taraxacum ceratophorum*

(Horned dandelion)

HERB, robust from thickened stem to taproot, 5-25 cm tall.

LEAVES — *lobed*, without hairs, *lance-shaped* but broadest above middle, *with broadly winged petiolar base*.

FLOWERS — ligulate heads large; *involucral bracts* (a), *especially inner ones*, *tending to bear little horns or crests*, outer ones wider and shorter than or equalling inner bracts appressed: *ray flowers yellow*.

HABITAT — meadows and other moist places in mountains, ESSF zone.

NOTE — *T. officinale* (common dandelion), an introduced European weed, is also present in the Skeena area and is very similar to *T. ceratophorum*. *T. officinale* has reflexed outer involucral bracts as compared to appressed bracts in *T. ceratophorum*. In general the latter is less robust and the leaves less lobed than the first.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Aptaceae* (Carrot family)

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**Angelica genuflexa**
(White angelica)

HERB, leafy-stemmed perennial arising from erect simple stem base; often more than 1 m tall; the stem commonly covered in a fine, waxy powder.

LEAVES — *pinnae often deflexed* (a), ternate-pinnately about twice compound; leaflets egg-shaped or lance-shaped to elliptic, coarsely serrate, *veins tending to end at the points of the teeth* (b), without hairs, or hairy only along veins beneath.

FLOWERS — generally several compound inflorescences with elongate flower stems which seem to arise from a common point (c); *flowers white or pinkish*.

FRUIT — (d) glabrous, almost circular in outline; lateral wings broad, about as wide as body.

HABITAT — moist places; swamps, along streams.

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**Cicuta douglasii**
(Water hemlock)

HERB, stout, 0.5-2 m tall; stems solitary or few together from tuberous-thickened and chambered base (a), several roots generally tuberous-thickened as well.

LEAVES — basal and on stem, 1-3 times ternate-pinnate, with well-defined, lance-linear to lance-egg-shaped, serrate, *leaflets with lateral veins ending between the teeth* (b).

FLOWERS — *white to greenish* in several inflorescences with flower stems arising from a common point, like an umbrella (c).

FRUIT — (d) round-egg-shaped to circular, with corky, thickened, unequal ribs.

HABITAT — marshes, edges of streams and ditches, and in other wet low places, from plains and lowlands to mountain valleys, *all parts of plant are highly poisonous to man as well as to livestock*.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Apiaceae* (Carrot family)

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**Heracleum sphondylium**
**ssp. montanum**
(Common common cow-parsnip)

HERB, very large, hairy, single-stemmed perennial from stout taproot or cluster of fibrous roots, 1-3 m tall; stems hollow.

LEAVES — once ternate, with broad distinctly petiolate, coarsely toothed and palmately lobed leaflets, 10-30 cm long and wide, asymmetrical.

FLOWERS — (a) with 5-10 deciduous narrow bracts beneath compound inflorescence, bractlets below secondary flower stems similar to bracts: flowers white.

FRUIT — (b) egg-shaped to heart-shaped, with or without hairs.

HABITAT — streambanks, moist slopes, moist low ground, and woods; from lowlands to moderate elevations in mountains.

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**Osmorhiza chilensis**
(Mountain sweet-cicely)

HERB, perennial with well developed taproot; stem solitary or sometimes 2-3, slender, 0.3-1 m tall, branched above.

LEAVES — twice ternately compound; leaflets coarsely serrated, thin; basal leaves several, long-stemmed; stem leaves 1-3, with short stem.

FLOWERS — (a) greenish-white, inconspicuous umbrella-shaped clusters.

FRUIT — schizocarp, concavely narrowed at summit and broadly beak-like near apex (b), 12-22 mm long.

HABITAT — woodlands from sea level to moderate high elevations.
Other Herbaceous Plants

Apiaceae (Carrot family)

**Osmorhiza depauperata**
(Blunt-fruited sweet-cicely)

**HERB**, very similar to *O. chilensis*.

**LEAVES** — similar to *O. chilensis*.

**FLOWERS** — similar to *O. chilensis*.

**FRUIT** — *convexly narrowed to rounded at summit (a) and not beak-like near the apex*.

**HABITAT** — similar to *O. chilensis*.

**Osmorhiza purpurea**
(Purple sweet-cicely)

**HERB**, 20-70 cm tall, very similar in appearance to *O. chilensis*.

**LEAVES** — *triangular to circular in outline*, 1-3 times ternate; leaflets lance-shaped to egg-shaped, coarsely round-toothed, incised or lobed.

**FLOWERS** — rays 2-6; *flowers purplish, pinkish or greenish-white*.

**FRUIT** — (a) *linear-spindle-shaped*, constricted below shortly beaked apex (b), 8-13 mm long.

**HABITAT** — meadows, streambanks, moist or wet open slopes in mountains, often at rather high elevations, less commonly in woodlands.
**Other Herbaceous Plants**

*Araceae* (Arum family)  
*Araliaceae* (Ginseng family)

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**Lysichitum americanum**  
(American skunk-cabbage)

*HERB,* perennial with short, fleshy, erect underground stems.

*LEAVES* — large, 30-130 cm long and 10-70 cm wide, simple, oblong-oval, glossy green, with a *skunk-like odor.*

*FLOWERS* — on a spadix (a), yellowish green; *spathé* (b) *large,* yellow.

*HABITAT* — common in swampy soils, pond and lake margins and along streams. Common in the CWHf on open and forested sites with restricted drainage, sporadic in ICHg, absent from SBS.

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**Aralia nudicaulis**  
(Wild sarsaparilla)

*HERB,* widely rhizomatous, perennial with *stout,* erect, woody stems barely reaching soil surface.

*LEAVES* — generally single, 30-50 cm long, 3 times compound with leaflets pinnately compound and serrated.

*FLOWERS* — flowering stem naked, shorter than leaf and topped with 3-7 *umbrella-shaped clusters* (a) or balls of *greenish-white flowers* (b).

*FRUIT* — dark purple berries (c).

*HABITAT* — moist shaded forests, medium to rich sites, sporadic in CWHf, but a characteristic species of mesic-subhydric Aspen-Birch ecosystem associations and some moss sites in the ICHg. Also found in rich sites in the SBS. The Bella Coola Indians formerly made a beverage by boiling the rhizomes of this plant in water; it has similar medicinal properties to the tropical sarsaparilla.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Boraginaceae* (Borage family)  *Caprifoliaceae* (Honeysuckle family)

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**Mertensia paniculata**
(Tall bluebell)

HERB; stems solitary to several from a somewhat woody base, 0.2-1.5 m tall.

LEAVES — *prominently veined*, oval; basal ones long petioled, blunt-tipped; stem leaves narrower, sharp-pointed, nearly sessile.

FLOWERS — in branched, open cluster of *blue, bell-shaped* (a), often nodding flowers.

HABITAT — streambanks, wet meadows, damp thickets, and wet cliffs; typically a boreal species. Probably restricted in distribution to N.E. of the Skeena area (SBS and ICHg).

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**Linnaea borealis**
(Northern twinflower)

HERB, trailing, woody perennial with short, erect leafy stems, less than 10 cm long; more or less hairy.

LEAVES — *opposite*, firm, broadly elliptic, with shallow teeth.

FLOWERS — *paired, pink, bell-shaped flowers*.

HABITAT — in open or dense woods at various elevations. Widespread on a wide range of poor to medium rich and dry to moist sites.
**Other Herbaceous Plants**
*Caryophyllaceae* (Pink family)

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**Cerastium arvense**  
(*Field chickweed*)

HERB, perennial with trailing stems forming mats or clumps 30-40 cm broad; flowering stems 5-50 cm tall.

LEAVES — linear to narrowly lance-shaped; leaves of trailing and sterile stems narrowly oblanceolate or oblance-egg-shaped; stem leaves (except uppermost) with cluster of secondary leaves or short sterile shoots in their axils.

FLOWERS — usually more than 5 in open inflorescence; petals white, about twice as long as sepals, deeply bilobed-ovate (a).

HABITAT — coastal cliffs or grassy flats to inland valleys, rocky hillsides, and subalpine (occasionally alpine) dry to moist meadowland.

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**Silene acaulis**  
(*Moss campion*)

HERB, cushion-like perennial from woody roots and branched thickened stem base, forming thick mats up to 30 cm broad; stems 3-4 cm tall.

LEAVES — mostly basal, withering and persistent for many years, linear to linear-lance-shaped, sessile.

FLOWERS — (a) single; calyx tubular-bell-shaped (b), frequently pinkish; petals pink to lavender; plants having either male or female flowers.

HABITAT — moist areas in high mountains, in rock crevices, alpine meadows, open slopes.
**Other Herbaceous Plants**
*Caryophyllaceae* (Pink family)  *Cornaceae* (Dogwood family)

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**Stellaria crispa**  
(Crisp starwort)

**HERB**, low, spreading, often matted from slender rhizomes; stems prostrate to ascending, 5-30 cm long.

**LEAVES** — lance-shaped to egg-shaped, sessile or lower ones short-petiolate, **sharp-pointed at tip, thin, margins minutely crisped and translucent** (a).

**FLOWERS** — single in axils and at stem tip; sepals 5; **petals lacking or shorter than sepals**; capsule (b) nearly twice as long as the sepals.

**HABITAT** — mostly lowlands or lower montane woods; wet soil in woods, on streambanks, and on beaches; in Devil’s Club types throughout the Kitwanga-Hazelton area.

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**Cornus canadensis**  
(Canadian bunchberry)

**HERB**, low, widely rhizomatous, 5-20 cm tall.

**LEAVES** — 4-7 in terminal whorl, oval-elliptic, 2-8 cm long, green above, whitish beneath, **veins parallel**.

**FLOWERS** — in a solitary condensed cluster, **with 4 white to purplish-tinged petal-like bracts** (a) **surrounding a central cluster of small greenish-white to purplish flowers** (b).

**FRUIT** — **bright red drupes** (c); although slightly pulpy they are sweet.

**HABITAT** — in dry to moist woods from sea level to subalpine. Widespread throughout the Skeena area especially in mesic medium rich sites. Best growth on richer sites.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Droseraceae* (Sundew family)

**Drosera anglica**
*(Long-leaved sundew)*

*HERB, insectivorous*, perennial, 5-17 cm tall.

*LEAVES* — ascending to erect, often reddish, covered with sticky glandular hairs (a) that trap insects; borne in basal rosette; **blades narrowly oblong-lance shaped to spatula-shaped-oblong or triangular-egg-shaped**, 1-3 cm long; **at least twice as long as broad**; petioles 1.5-8 cm long.

*FLOWERS* — **inflorescence 2-7 flowered**, flowers all on one side of axis; petals white; leafless stem of inflorescence 6-18 cm tall.

*HABITAT* — usually growing with mosses in wet sedge or *Sphagnum* bogs, also found in swamps, from sea level to subalpine locations.

**Drosera rotundifolia**
*(Round-leaved sundew)*

*HERB, insectivorous*, perennial 5-25 cm tall.

*LEAVES* — spreading, sticky glandular (a), borne in basal rosette; **blades round to broadly egg-shaped-triangular**, 5-12 mm long; **at least as broad as long**; petioles 2-9 cm long.

*FLOWERS* — **inflorescence 3-10 flowered**, all on one side of axis; petals white; leafless stem of inflorescence up to 25 cm tall.

*HABITAT* — swamps, *Sphagnum* bogs and wet meadows.
Other Herbaceous Plants

Fabaceae (Pea family)

Lathyrus nevadensis
ssp. lanceolatus
var. pilosellus
(Nuttall's pea)

HERB, perennial with creeping rootstock and erect to clambering angled stems 15-80 cm tall.

LEAVES — with 4-10 leaflets, 2-12 cm long, hairy on under surface, stipules (a) narrow, linear to lance-shaped; tendrils present.

FLOWERS — (b) in 2-7 flowered racemes, bluish-purple to mauve-red.

FRUIT — a hairless pod (c).

HABITAT — open woods. A typically interior species that dominates the understory in many Aspen or mixed stands in the SBS and 1CHg3.

Lathyrus ochroleucus
(Cream-flowered pea)

HERB, perennial with rootstock and more or less angled stems; 30-80 cm tall.

LEAVES — with mostly 6 leaflets and well developed tendrils (a), leaflets to 7 cm long, without hairs, stipules (b) broad, oval shaped.

FLOWERS — (c) in racemes of 6-15 "pea-like" flowers, white to yellowish white.

FRUIT — a hairless pod (d).

HABITAT — open woods and rocky slopes. A typically interior species with a similar habitat, but less cover than L. nevadensis.
Other Herbaceous Plants
*Fabaceae* (Pea family)

**Lupinus arcticus**
*(Arctic lupine)*

HERB, perennial with several stems arising from a branched rootstock; stems to 60 cm tall, slender, hollow, long-hairy.

LEAVES — mostly arising from near the rootstock; 6-8 leaflets with sharp, pointed tips (a), hairy on under surface; longest petioles mostly basal.

FLOWERS — several, *bluish*, in an elongated cluster; typical legume flower (b).

FRUIT — hairy legume (c).

HABITAT — mostly open ground; very common in B.C. Occurs on roadsides, in alpine meadows and open subalpine forests.

**Lupinus nootkatensis**
*(Nootka lupine)*

HERB, perennial with stout woody rootstock; stem erect, hairy, hollow to 1 m tall.

LEAVES — all arising from main stems; leaflets 5-8 broadly lance-shaped, hairy beneath (a), glabrous above; longest petioles cauline.

FLOWERS — blue, often shaded with pink or white (b) in a dense elongated cluster.

FRUIT — hairy legume (c).

HABITAT — damp maritime situations; mostly northern coastal.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Fabaceae* (Pea family)  

*Geranieae* (Geranium family)

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**Vicia americana**  
(American vetch)

HERB, perennial, trailing or climbing, naked to hairy stems, 15-60 cm tall.

LEAVES — simple or branched tendrils; with 8-18 leaflets, leaflets to 35 mm long.

FLOWERS — (a) in loose raceme of 3-9 pea-like flowers, bluish-purple to reddish-purple.

FRUIT — glabrous pod (b).

HABITAT — fields, thickets, and open woods. An interior species most common on seral aspen sites in the 1CHg3 and SBS.

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**Geranium erianthum**  
(Northern crane's bill)

HERB, perennial with stems from thick, long scaly woody base.

LEAVES — deeply cleft into 3-5 irregularly lobed segments (a).

FLOWERS — (b) 3-5, rose or violet, in loose cluster; petals twice as long as sepals.

HABITAT — forests and meadows to above timberline.
Other Herbaceous Plants

Juncaginaceae (Arrow-grass family)  Lamiaceae (Mint family)

Triglochin maritimum
(Sea-side arrow-grass)

HERB, semi-aquatic, perennial with heavy woody rhizomes, covered with whitish leaf bases; with several fleshy leaves at top; flowering stems 0.3-1.2 m tall, ascending.

LEAVES — blades fleshy somewhat flattened, blunt, linear.

FLOWERS — (a) inflorescence much more than half total length of plant, very closely flowered; perianth segments greenish or yellowish.

FRUIT — (b) oblong to oblong-egg-shaped, six ovoid carpels, completely deciduous.

HABITAT — marshy to moist and gravelly areas, mostly where saline or alkaline; salt marshes, primarily coastal.

Stachys cooleyae
(Cooley’s hedge-nettle)

HERB, rhizomatous perennial, 0.7-1.5 m tall; square stem with bristles pointed downward on the 4 angles.

LEAVES — hairy both sides, petiolate, gradually reduced and shorter-petiolate upward; middle blades triangular-egg-shaped to heart-shaped-egg-shaped, coarsely round-toothed.

FLOWERS — (a) inflorescence a series of whorls of flowers, petals deep red-purple.

HABITAT — swamps and moist low ground.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Lamiaceae* (Mint family)  
*Lentibulariaceae* (Bladderwort family)

**Stachys mexicana**  
(Mexican betony)

*HERB*, similar in habit to *S. cooleya*, but smaller, only 30-80 cm tall.

*LEAVES* — similar to *S. cooleya*.

*FLOWERS* — (a) corolla pink or pink-purple, distinctly paler and smaller than *S. cooleya*; the tube 8-13 mm long.

*HABITAT* — swamps and moist woodlands, chiefly near coast.

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**Pinguicula vulgaris**  
(Common butterwort)

*HERB*, fibrous-rooted perennial.

*LEAVES* — fleshy, *margins rolled backward*, broadly lance-shaped but broadest above middle, or almost elliptic; short petiolate; *slimy on upper surface, digesting small insects which stick to the surface*.

*FLOWERS* — stems of inflorescence 5-15 cm high; *petals lavender-purple or rarely white*; spur present; flowers (a) with flaring throat and broad, rounded lobes, nodding.

*HABITAT* — bogs and wet soil in mountains, bare soil, beaches, meadows, and mossy seepage sites. Common in the CCPH (coastal muskeg) zone.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Menyanthaceae* (Buckbean family)

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**Fauria crista-galli** ssp. *crista-galli*
(Deer-cabbage)

*Herb*, perennial, rhizomes, thick and fleshy, covered with old leaf bases.

*Leaves* — petioles 20 to 30 cm long; *leaf blades heart-shaped-egg-shaped*, broadly kidney-shaped or kidney-shaped-heart-shaped but with notch at tip; round-toothed.

*Flowers* — (a) top-shaped, *white*; inflorescences open, loosely flowered.

*Habitat* — bogs, swamps, wet meadows, and seepage sites. Restricted to the coast, sea level to subsalpine elevations. Common in wet coastal muskegs.

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**Menyanthes trifoliata**
*(Buckbean)*

*Herb, perennial bog plant*; rhizomes thick, covered with old leaf bases; stems prostrate or floral branches ascending.

*Leaves* — alternate, crowded near base of flowering stem, *3-foliolate*, petioles 10 to 30 cm long; leaflets elliptic-egg-shaped.

*Flowers* — (a) *whitish*, usually purplish-tinged, *petals clothed in scaly hairs*; anthers purplish; inflorescence stem 5-30 cm long, flower stems bracteate-based.

*Habitat* — wet boggy marshes, bogs, lake and pond margins. Widespread in both coast and interior.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Monotropaceae* (Indian-pipe family)

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### Hypopitys monotropa
(Pinesap)

**HERB.** 5-25 cm tall, *pinkish to straw-coloured*, drying to black, usually densely pubescent.

**LEAVES.** — entire to fringed, scale-like.

**FLOWERS.** — (a) *several to many* in a terminal raceme, inflorescence usually curved backward in flower, becoming erect in fruit; *petals hairy on one or both surfaces*, overlapping, somewhat sac-like at base, erect.

**FRUIT.** — a capsule.

**HABITAT.** — *in humus of chiefly coniferous forests*; in lodgepole pine-hemlock-moss forest in the Kitwanga-Hazelton area. Mesic to submesic moss sites, coast and interior.

### Monotropa uniflora
(Indian-pipe)

**HERB.** *saprophytic*, with cluster of flowering unbranched stems 5-25 cm tall, *waxy-white*, blackening with age.

**LEAVES.** — lance-shaped to ovate, scale-like.

**FLOWERS.** — (a) *solitary*, 1.5 - 2 cm long, narrowly bell-shaped, curved to one side or drooping, becoming erect in fruit (b); petals sac-like at base; conspicuously broadened at base.

**FRUIT.** — a capsule.

**HABITAT.** — deep shaded coniferous forest. Primarily found in coastal forest, very rare, as far east as Hazelton, probably absent from SBS in the Skeena area.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Monotropaceae* (Indian-pipe family) *Nymphaeaceae* (Water-lily family)

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**Pterospora andromedea**

(Pinedrops)

HERB, *saprophytic* plants, unbranched 0.3-1 m tall.

LEAVES — scale-like leaves (a), yellowish to reddish brown; *dried stems remaining for one or more years*.

FLOWERS — (b) *pale yellow*, urn-shaped, in an elongated raceme, 5-8 mm long, drooping on their stalk.

FRUIT — depressed globose capsule (c) to 12 mm broad.

HABITAT — deep humus in coniferous forests, especially under pine. Common in the Hazleton area.

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**Nuphar lutea**

ssp. *polysepala*

(Yellow pond-lily)

HERB, perennial from a thick submerged rhizome (a).

LEAVES — floating (sometimes partially or wholly immersed), leaf stem up to 2 m long, leaf blade 10-40 cm long, leathery, cordate.

FLOWERS — *sepals* (b) 9, *outer ones leathery, more greenish, shorter, inner ones bright yellow to reddish-tinged*; petals lance-shaped, thick, inconspicuous, greenish-yellow, somewhat purplish-tinged; stamens numerous, reddish or purplish.

HABITAT — ponds, shallow lakes, sluggish streams.
Other Herbaceous Plants
Onagraceae (Evening-primrose family)

Circaea alpina
(Enchanter's-nightshade)

HERB, highly variable taxon, perennial from slender rootstock, 10-50 cm tall, simply to freely branched, tender and juicy.

LEAVES — heart-shaped to ovate, toothed, short-hairy especially on lower surface, petioles narrowly winged.

FLOWERS — (a) small, white to pink, borne in racemes; petals two-lobed.

FRUIT — (b) top-shaped, covered with hooked or straight hairs.

HABITAT — in cool, damp woods, often along streams; mostly in mountains. In rich, moist sites in CWHf and ICHg, in subhygro-hygro Devil’s club-lady fern-skunk cabbage sites, alluvial black cottonwood ecosystems.

Epilobium anagallidifolium
(Alpine willowherb)

HERB, low, matted perennial, spreading by rhizomes and stolons. 5-30 cm tall.

LEAVES — generally opposite, about equally spaced, sessile to short-petiolate, linear to egg-shaped, 1-5 cm long.

FLOWERS — (a) few, petals white to dark-pink or lilac-rose, notched.

FRUIT — linear to club-shaped capsule (b); seed 1 mm long.

HABITAT — moist banks and rocks, talus slopes, mountain meadows, near seepage sites and springs, along streams, often above timberline.

NOTE — E. latifolium (Dwarf fireweed) also occurs in the Skeena area and differs from E. anagallidifolium in being non-rhizomatous and having petals 4-5 times larger. It is found in river bars, along streams and on drier subalpine to alpine slopes.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Onagraceae* (Evening-primrose family) *Orobanchaceae* (Broomrape family)

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**Epilobium angustifolium**  
(Fireweed)

*HERB*, perennial from rhizome-like roots; *stems usually simple*, 1-3 m tall.

*LEAVES* — *alternate*, narrowly lance-shaped, veins visible on under surface.

*FLOWERS* — (a) several, rose to purple, in *elongated terminal cluster*.

*FRUIT* — narrow green to red dehiscent seed pod (b).

*HABITAT* — common on disturbed sites especially on burned sites; from sea level to subalpine, also in moist seral spruce-lodgepole pine-aspen forests of the 1CHg3 and SBS.

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**Boschniakia rossica**  
(Northern ground-cone)

*HERB, parasitic* 10-40 cm tall, from a corn-like base (a), stems several.

*LEAVES* — scale-like triangular to egg-shaped, sharp-pointed, yellowish to purplish, entire to minutely shredded or short-ciliate; 3-10 mm long.

*FLOWERS* — *purplish*, many-flowered inflorescence 6-25 cm long; bracts egg-shaped, sharp-pointed or blunt, minutely shredded to ciliate.

*FRUIT* — a capsule.

*HABITAT* — thickets, woodlands and heath; most commonly found parasitic on roots of *Alnus* spp. particularly those of *Alnus viridis* also reported on roots of *Betula, Vaccinium, Picea*, and *Salix* spp.
**Other Herbaceous Plants**

*Parnassiaceae* (Grass-of-Parnassus family) *Polemoniaceae* (Phlox family)

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**Parnassia fimbriata var. fimbriata**  
(Fringed grass-of-Parnassus)

**HERB**, plant with short, stout, slightly ascending to erect rootstock; flowering stem 1-several, with a clasping leaf (a) about half way up or more on the stem.

**LEAVES** — broad kidney-shaped, basal, glossy green.

**FLOWERS** — *white*, with *bottom of petals fringed with hairs in a comb-like arrangement* (b), and petals nearly twice as long as sepals.

**HABITAT** — in damp mountain meadows and along alpine streams. Occasionally found in wet places at lower elevations.

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**Polemonium pulcherrimum**  
(Showy Jacob's-ladder)

**HERB**, 5-30 cm tall, with several loosely erect, clustered stems from branched thickened stem base which surmounts a tap-root; plants glandular or glandular-hairy.

**LEAVES** — basal leaves pinnately compound, tufted, stem leaves reduced; *leaflets 11-25, opposite or offset*, egg-shaped to circular.

**FLOWERS** — bell-shaped; inflorescence congested, scarcely headlike; *petals blue, with yellow tube*.

**HABITAT** — moist or shaded places, exposed slopes or exposed sites above timberline, often on gravelly soil moderate to high elevations in mountains and roadsides in the Kitwanga-Hazelton area.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Portulacaceae* (Purslane family)

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**Claytonia sibirica**
(Siberian springbeauty)

HERB, plants annual or short-lived perennials; stems several, 1-5 cm tall.

LEAVES — basal leaves many, blades lance-shaped or elliptic to diamond-shaped-egg-shaped, petioles 2-3 times length of blade; stem leaves 2, opposite, sessile to short-petiolate, egg-shaped-diamond-shaped to broadly lance-shaped.

FLOWERS — inflorescences 2 or 3, many-flowered, up to 30 cm with conspicuous bracts: petals 5, *white to deep pink*.

HABITAT — moist, shaded places; from lowlands to middle elevations in mountains. Primarily found in coastal areas of the Skeena.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Pyrolaceae* (Wintergreen family)

**KEY TO COMMON WINTERGREENS (*Pyrolaceae*)**

Adapted from Szczawinski, 1962

1a. Leaves cauline, styles short and inconspicuous; filaments enlarged and hairy ..........................

............................................................................................................ *Chimaphila umbellata*

1b. Leaves mostly vasal, styles elongate, conspicuous; filaments not enlarged or hairy.

2a. Flowers broad, white, solitary, terminal on scapes; leaf blades egg-shaped-elliptic ....

............................................................................................................. *Moneses uniflora*

2b. Flowers 2 or more, racemose.

3a. Style straight or nearly so; without a collar or ring below the shield-shaped stigma;

   anthers without projecting tubes.

4a. Flowers all on one side of the stem; style projecting at the time of expansion of the

   flower; leaves finely serrated ............................ *Orthilia secunda* ssp. *secunda*

4b. Flowers not all on one side of stem; style not projecting at time of flower expansion;

   leaves with small rounded teeth ............................... *Pyrola minor*

3b. Style bent to one side at time of flower expansion, often with a collar or ring below the

   stigma; with short projecting tubes.

5a. Petals pink to rose or purplish-red; sepals much longer than broad .................

............................................................................................................ *Pyrola asarifolia*

5b. Petals pale yellowish; sepals rounded, broader than long .......... *Pyrola chlorantha*
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Pyrolaceae* (Wintergreen family)

**Chimaphila umbellata** ssp. *occidentalis*  
(Prince’s-pine)

HERB, evergreen, quite stout, slightly woody perennial with creeping rootstock; stem to 35 cm tall, simple or branched, greenish, without hairs.

LEAVES — *whorled*, bright green and shiny above, narrowly oblong, sharply toothed.

FLOWERS — (a) 3-10 in a small, loose cluster; petals white to pink and waxy; *flower stem with fine hairs*.

FRUIT — depressed globose capsule (b) to 7 mm broad.

HABITAT — dry woods, often on rotting wood in coniferous forests. Found in poor to medium, mesic to submesic sites on the coast and in the interior.

**Moneses uniflora**  
(Single delight)

HERB, delicate, evergreen, arising from a very slender rhizome, up to 15 cm tall; a very distinctive and attractive plant when in flower.

LEAVES — *opposite or mostly in whorls of 3*, thin and obscurely veined, with margin serrated, *usually obovate*.

FLOWERS — (a) *white, waxy, solitary, terminal*, nodding; on a stem with one or two bracts.

FRUIT — globose capsule (b) to 8 mm broad.

HABITAT — open to dense coniferous forests, with moss understory, moist woods and banks in humus soils or on rotting wood.
Other Herbaceous Plants

Pyrolaceae (Wintergreen family)

Orthilia secunda ssp. secunda
(One-sided wintergreen)

HERB, perennial, with a slender much-branched rhizome; stem single, leafy towards base and often woody.

LEAVES — numerous, oval elliptical, serrated, dark green above, paler beneath.

FLOWERS — (a) 6-20 on elongated cluster with flowers directed to one side (secund) (b), petals light greenish to white, style straight.

FRUIT — depressed globose capsule (c) to 5 mm broad.

HABITAT — widely distributed throughout coastal and interior forests, often in clearcuts in Kitwanga-Hazelton area.

Pyrola asarifolia
(Common pink pyrola)

HERB, perennial, with long, creeping, branched rootstock; flowering stem up to 40 cm tall.

LEAVES — petiole as long as blade; circular to elliptic, leathery, shiny dark green on top, purplish beneath.

FLOWERS — 10-25 in a long loose cluster, petals pinkish to purplish-red, style long, bent to one side (a).

FRUIT — capsule (b) 6-8 mm broad.

HABITAT — moist or mesic places, chiefly in coniferous forest; birch-aspen stands in the Kitwanga-Hazelton area. Widespread, but not on the outer coast.
Other Herbaceous Plants
Pyrolaceae (Wintergreen family)

Pyrola chlorantha
(Green wintergreen)

HERB, perennial with long slender rhizomes and leafy sterile shoots; flowering stem to 25 cm tall.

LEAVES — Circular to broad oval, leathery, pale green on top, darker beneath; petioles longer than blade.

FLOWERS — (a) in a long cluster of few to 10 flowers; petal pale yellowish to greenish-white, style bent to one side (b).

FRUIT — depressed-globose capsule (c).

HABITAT — on humus in coniferous forest, moist woods, occasionally in drier area in open forest.

Pyrola minor
(Lesser wintergreen)

HERB, perennial with a slender rhizome; flowering stem single, naked to 25 cm tall.

LEAVES — broadly elliptic or orbicular, dark green and thin, rounded to heart-shaped at base with rounded teeth.

FLOWERS — (a) 5-20 flowered cluster with flowers not directed to one side; petals white or pink, style short and straight.

FRUIT — depressed-globose capsule (b), 5-6 mm broad.

HABITAT — humus in coniferous forest, moist mossy woods and damp mountain meadows.
Other Herbaceous Plants
Ranunculaceae (Buttercup family)

**Actaea rubra**
(Red baneberry)

HERB, stems 1-several, 0.4-1.0 m tall, branched.

LEAVES — few, 2-3 ternate, toothed and lobed.

FLOWERS — (a) white, in terminal and axillary inflorescences.

FRUIT — glossy red or white berries (b), poisonous.

HABITAT — moist woods and streambanks; subhygric-hygric rich sites on the coast and in the interior.

**Anemone multifida**
(Cut-leaf anemone)

HERB, hairy, perennial with one to many stems from a thickened stem base commonly branched; 15-50 cm tall.

LEAVES — basal leaves numerous, in threes or fours and cleft 2 or 3 times; leaves at base of flower stems dissected similarly to basal leaves.

FLOWERS — (a) yellowish and tinged with red, blue or purple, particularly on outer surface.

FRUIT — achenes (b) borne in somewhat spherical cluster (c), woolly-silky.

HABITAT — from dry sunny exposed slopes and forest in the foothills and mountain valleys to higher peaks; very common in prairie grasslands, dry open woods and meadows.
**Other Herbaceous Plants**

*Ranunculaceae* (Buttercup family)

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**Caltha leptosepala var. biflora**
(Broad-leaf marshmarigold)

*HERB, plants erect, 15-35 cm tall.*

*LEAVES — mainly basal, petiole several times length of blade, blade almost circular to egg-shaped, up to 10 cm long, almost entire to round-toothed.*

*FLOWERS — white solitary; single leaf usually at base of flower stem, flower stems usually 2.*

*FRUIT — follicle (a) subsessile.*

*HABITAT — wet, alpine and subalpine places, moist woods and meadows, common in bogs.*

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**Caltha leptosepala var. leptosepala**
(Elkspip marshmarigold)

*HERB, fleshy perennial, 5-40 cm tall.*

*LEAVES — abundant, oblong-oval, to 6 cm long, nearly entire to serrated, waxy green, petioles shorter than the blades.*

*FLOWERS — showy, white, tinged with blue and a greenish-yellow centre.*

*FRUIT — follicle (a) subsessile.*

*HABITAT — wet subalpine and alpine locations, common on organic soils.*
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Ranunculaceae* (Buttercup family)

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**Coptis aspleniiifolia**

(Fern-leaf goldthread)

HERB, 9-35 cm tall; thick rootstock.

LEAVES — *basal, fernlike*, ternately compound, leaflets pinnate, lowest pair of pinnules petiolate, ultimate segments sharply serrate and deeply lobed or deeply and sharply cut.

FLOWERS — leafless stalk of *inflorescence mostly 2-3 flowered*, 5-25 cm tall, usually exceeding leaves when plant in flower; *sepal* (a) *whitish, threadlike-lance-shaped*; *petal* (b) slightly shorter than *sepal*, threadlike.

FRUIT — a follicle (c).

HABITAT — moist woods and bogs, most common in the wet forests and muskegs of the outer coast.

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**Coptis trifolia**

(Trifoliate goldthread)

HERB, low perennial, 5-14 cm tall, from a slender, elongate, bright yellow rhizome.

LEAVES — *basal, evergreen, with 3 leaflets* (a), largest portion of leaflet above the middle, sharply round-toothed and very obscurely 3-lobed.

FLOWERS — (b) solitary; *sepals* whitish, narrowly lance-to spatula-shaped; *petals* (c) half the length of the *sepals*, fleshy hollowed and nectariferous at tip and without flattened blade.

FRUIT — a follicle.

HABITAT — damp mossy woods, thickets; most common in the wet forests and muskegs of the outer coast.
Other Herbaceous Plants
*Ranunculaceae* (Buttercup family)

**Delphinium glaucum**
(Pale larkspur)

HERB, perennial, from thick, stout rootstock; stems usually several, simple below inflorescence 1-2 m tall.

LEAVES — numerous, reduced up the stem, 5-7 large lobes with each lobe 2-3 times sharply lobed or toothed, **glaucous**.

FLOWERS — (a) in simple to compound, elongate and loosely, **many flowered inflorescences**; **sepals deep purplish, petals bluish**.

FRUIT — an erect glabrous follicle (b).

HABITAT — subalpine to alpine meadows and streambanks.

**Ranunculus acris** ssp. **acris**
(Meadow buttercup)

HERB, hairy perennial; stems 1 to several, hollow, 30-80 cm tall.

LEAVES — **basal leaf blades broadly heart-shaped**, deeply 3-lobed, lateral segments again divided nearly to base, and again cut 2-3 times into sharp-pointed segments, central main lobe ternately segmented and cut as lateral pair; stem leaves alternate, transitional to 3-5 lobed bracts.

FLOWERS — (a) **sepals greenish**, hairy, quickly deciduous; **petals 5, yellow**.

FRUIT — glabrous smooth achene (b) with stylar beak broad, flattened and curved.

HABITAT — moist to well-drained soil at lower elevations; moist meadows, roadsides.
Other Herbaceous Plants
*Ranunculaceae* (Buttercup family)

**Ranunculus eschscholtzii**
(Subalpine buttercup)

HERB, perennial with fibrous roots, stems 1-several, 5-25 cm tall.

LEAVES — basal ones slender petiolate, kidney-shaped to oval in outline, from shallowly 3-lobed to 2-3 times dissected; stem leaves sessile.

FLOWERS — 1-3 yellow, terminal; petals 5, 7-15 mm long.

FRUIT — achene (a) smooth, glabrous to lightly hairy, with recurved stylar beak.

HABITAT — mountain meadows and talus slopes, often blossoming at edges of melting snowbanks.

**Ranunculus occidentalis**
ssp. *occidentalis*
(Western buttercup)

HERB, hairy perennial; stems 1 to several, hollow, 15-40 cm tall.

LEAVES — *basal leaf blades simple*, divided into 3 main, wedge-shaped segments, middle lobe ternately deeply toothed; stem leaves alternate, more deeply dissected than basal leaves, transitional to 3-7-segmented (lower) and entire (upper) bracts.

FLOWERS — *sepals 5*, greenish or pinkish-tinged, hairy, quickly deciduous; petals 5, yellow.

FRUIT — achene (a) smooth, glabrous, tapered to a straight stylar beak.

HABITAT — moist to well-drained soil; moist meadows.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Ranunculaceae* (Buttercup family)

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**Thalictrum occidentale**
*(Western meadowrue)*

HERB, delicate, perennial, stems 0.4-1.0 m tall, *young stems dark purplish.*

LEAVES — 3-4 times ternate; leaflets 3-lobed, each lobe less deeply 2-3 lobed or toothed, glabrous.

FLOWERS — greenish-white (female) to purplish (male); male (a) and female (b) flowers on separate plants.

FRUIT — achene with 3 prominent nerves on each side.

HABITAT — moist lowland woods to subalpine slopes.

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**Trautvetteria caroliniensis**
*(False bugbane)*

HERB, stems 1 to several from widely spreading rhizomes, erect, 50-80 cm tall, *smooth below becoming crisply hairy above,* at least in the inflorescence.

LEAVES — mainly basal, long-petioled; blades deeply palmately lobed into 5-11 broadly wedge-shaped, variously lobed, toothed segments, smooth above, hairy and paler beneath; stem leaves 1-2, alternate, short petiolate.

FLOWERS — (a) *sepal* egg-shaped, concave.

FRUIT — achene (b) papery, strongly nervet on the far angles, beaked with hooked style.

HABITAT — moist woods and along streams. Found in rich hygic sites in coastal areas only.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Rosaceae* (Rose family)

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**Aruncus dioicus**
(Goatsbeard)

HERB, deciduous perennial with stout short-creeping rhizomes and several stems 1-2 m tall.

LEAVES — alternate, mostly 3 times compound, sharply serrated (a), **more or less hairy on both sides**.

FLOWERS — (b) **white**, in dense, terminal, compound cluster (c).

FRUIT — follicle (d) 3 mm long.

HABITAT — in damp woods and along streams. Most common in coastal areas, found sporadically in the 1CHg, but absent from SBS. Rich moist sites, usually open, along roads, streambanks etc.

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**Fragaria virginiana**
(Blueleaf strawberry)

HERB, perennial with rootstock (a) **usually a single crown**, with several trailing shoots; flowering stem up to 15 cm long.

LEAVES — glaucous bluish-green above, 3 compound, naked to silky hairy beneath, **edge serrated with terminal tooth less than ½ as wide and shorter than the adjacent teeth** (b), leaflets with short petiole (c).

FLOWERS — white, 2-15 in open cymes.

FRUIT — small strawberry (d), fruit stem shorter than leaves; juicy, delicious, and much richer in flavour than domestic species.

HABITAT — open places throughout the province, most common in interior.
Other Herbaceous Plants
Rosaceae (Rose family)

Geum calthifolium
ssp. calthifolium
(Caltha-leaved avens)

HERB, plants 10-30 cm tall; stems erect, hairy, from stout, dark-brown thickened stem base, 1-3 sessile leaves below inflorescence.

LEAVES — basal leaves long-petiolate, simple or with 1 to few tiny leaflets below greatly enlarged terminal leaflet, terminal leaflet kidney-shaped to circular, heart-shaped base, rounded at tip, sharply toothed, nearly without hairs above, hairy along veins below; stem leaves coarsely serrate, lobed and sessile.

FLOWERS - petals yellow.
FRUIT — achenes (a) covered with stiff hairs.
HABITAT — moist sites in meadows, often in alpine regions.

Geum macrophyllum
var. macrophyllum
(Large-leaved avens)

HERB, perennial, rhizomatous with stems to 1 m tall and bristly hairy below.

LEAVES — those from rootstock are long petioled, with terminal segments largest, heart-to-kidney-shaped, and several smaller leaflets occurring below; stem leaves sessile or nearly so, deeply 3-lobed or 3-folate.

FLOWERS — bright yellow, from leaf axils or in terminal inflorescence.

FRUIT — achenes (a) short-hairy.
HABITAT — moist woods and openings, roadsides.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Rosaceae* (Rose family)

**Luetkea pectinata**
(Partridgefoot)

HERB, prostrate, evergreen mat-forming semi-shrub; flowering stem up to 15 cm tall.

LEAVES — numerous, mostly crowded in thick basal tufts, without stipules, two to three times 3-dissected. *withering and persistent for many years.*

FLOWERS — (a) white in a terminal cluster (b), on an upright leafy flowering stem.

FRUIT — several seeded follicle.

HABITAT — moist or shaded locations in subalpine and alpine. Indicator of late snow melt patches.

**Potentilla palustris**
(Marsh cinquefoil)

HERB, perennial with long-creeping often floating, more or less woody rhizomes; stems frequently reddish below, to 1 m tall.

LEAVES — lower ones pinnate, 5-7 leaflets, coarsely serrated, pale green above, glaucous on the underside, upper leaves smaller.

FLOWERS — several to many in loose terminal cluster, *purplish, and brownish.*

FRUIT — a plumply ovate achene (a).

HABITAT — in marshes and bogs, usually at least partly submerged. Common throughout the province.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Rosaceae* (Rose family)

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**Rubus chamaemorus**
*(Cloudberry)*

HERB, perennial with creeping rootstock; flowering stem *erect, unarmed*, to 30 cm tall.

LEAVES — 1-3 per stem, *more or less 5 lobed*, leathery, serrated.

FLOWERS — *solitary, terminal*, uni-sexual; *petals white and spreading*.

FRUIT — drupelets (*a*), at first reddish *then amber to yellow when mature*; edible with sour-bitter taste.

HABITAT — occurring mainly in the northern interior; in muskegs and peat bogs, in association with *Sphagnum* moss. Found in the ICHg and SBS.

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**Rubus pedatus**
*(Strawberry bramble)*

HERB, perennial with creeping stem, rooting at the nodes, produces short, erect stems bearing 1-3 leaves; flowering stems *erect, unarmed and short* (2 cm or less).

LEAVES — usually palmately *5-foliate* (*a*) and coarsely serrated.

FLOWERS — *solitary on very slender pedicels; petals white, spreading or reflexed*.

FRUIT — red druplets, more or less coherent; very small and not particularly flavourful.

HABITAT — common in both coast and interior medium rich mesic to subhygic sites, most abundant in montane forests.
Other Herbaceous Plants

Rosaceae (Rose family)

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**Rubus pubescens**
(Dwarf red blackberry)

**Herb:** perennial with slender trailing stems, often rooting at nodes, with soft long hairs; flowering stem erect, unarmed, to 50 cm tall.

**Leaves:** 3-foliate (a), acute, sharply toothed and often entire on basal portion.

**Flowers:** 1-3 on short lateral branches; pedicels covered with stalked glands (b); petals white to rarely rose, erect.

**Fruit:** aggregate of dark red druplets, edible.

**Habitat:** in forest, typically an interior species. Common in the SBS and on moister, richer and seral sites in the lCHg.

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**Sanguisorba canadensis**
ssp. **latifolia**
(Sitka burnet)

**Herb:** glabrous perennial, freely rhizomatous; flowering stems .25-1.0 m tall.

**Leaves:** mostly basal; basal leaves with attached membranous stipules; blades 10-30 cm long; 9-17 leaflets, egg-shaped to egg-shaped-oblong, coarsely serrate; leaves of flowering stems 1-3, reduced, with leaflet-like stipules.

**Flowers:** inflorescence elongate, sepal (a) greenish-white or yellowish-white to slightly pinkish - or purplish-tinged.

**Fruit:** an achene.

**Habitat:** bogs, swamps, streambanks, meadows, in the Kitwanga Hazelton area it occurs in the subalpine-alpine.
Other Herbaceous Plants
Rubiaceae (Madder family)

**Galium boreale**
(Northern bedstraw)

HERB, perennial mostly 20-80 cm tall with numerous erect, square stems from creeping rhizomes.

LEAVES — (a) in whorls of 4, narrowly lance-shaped, blunt-tipped, strongly 3-nerved

FLOWERS — (b) numerous in terminal cluster, white to slightly creamy.

FRUIT — (c) covered with straight curly (not hooked) hairs.

HABITAT — on mesic and drier sites; from sea level to timberline.

**Galium kamtschaticum**
(Northern wild licorice)

HERB, perennial from slender creeping rhizomes, stems arising singly, erect, 10-20 cm tall.

LEAVES — in 2 to 4 whorls of 4, stiffly ciliate on margins, scattered, stiff hairs on at least upper surface, thin, broadly egg-shaped to broadly egg-shaped-elliptic, with sharp point at rounded or blunt tip, base triangular-shaped (a).

FLOWERS — greenish-white, stems 1-3 from uppermost whorl of leaves, elongate and 2-3 flowered, inflorescence very open.

FRUIT — (b) covered with hooked bristles.

HABITAT — occurs in richer sites such as the alluvial soils of Exchampsiks Park. Uncommon, found most frequently on the coast.
**Other Herbaceous Plants**

*ubieae (Madder family)  Santalaceae (Sandalwood family)*

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**Galium triflorum**

*(Fragrant bedstraw)*

HERB, perennial stems 20-80 cm long, prostrate or sometimes ascending and scrambling on other vegetation.

LEAVES — *vanilla scented, mostly (5) 6 in a whorl*, 4 on small branches, narrowly elliptic, 1-nerved (a). *with hooked hairs on underside midrib.*

FLOWERS — white, peduncles axillary, elongated and 3-flowered.

FRUIT — (b) *covered with hooked bristles.*

HABITAT — moist woods; from near sea level to moderate elevations. On moderately rich sites, widespread in both the coast and interior.

NOTE — *G. aparine* (Cleavers) and *G. trifidum* (Small bedstraw) are also present in the Skeena area. The leaves of *G. aparine* are usually in whorls of 6-8 and the fruit is covered with hooked bristles, whereas the leaves of *G. trifidum* are usually in whorls of 4 and the fruit is glabrous.

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**Geocaulon lividum**

*(Northern comandra)*

HERB, single stemmed with creeping thread-like, reddish rootstalk, 10-25 cm.

LEAVES — thin, oval, blunt-tipped, *bright green or yellow-variegated*, alternate.

FLOWERS — (a) in slender stalked, 2-4 flowered axillary cluster; usually only centre flower fertile.

FRUIT — succulent, *scarlet to fluorescent orange drupe* (b); edibility is questionable, not recommended.

HABITAT — bogs and dry open woods to lower alpine slopes. Appearing in the lodgepole pine-soapberry ecosystems.
Heuchera chlorantha
(Meadow alumroot)

HERB, perennial with branched crown and short thick rootstocks; flowering stems 0.4-1.0 m tall, lower part hairy becoming glandular-hairy above.

LEAVES — heart-shaped-egg-shaped to nearly kidney-shaped, with 5-9 broadly rounded shallow lobes, doubly round-toothed, with spreading sharp pointed teeth.

FLOWERS — inflorescence contracted and dense; top-shaped to bell-shaped (a), greenish to cream.

FRUIT — elliptic egg-shaped seed (b) covered with tapered spines.

HABITAT — gravelly prairies to wooded hillsides; dry lodgepole pine sites in the Kitwanga-Hazleton area.

Heuchera glabra
(Smooth alumroot)

HERB, flowering stems 1 to several 25-60 cm tall.

LEAVES — basal, heart-shaped to egg-shaped, sparsely glandular-hairy below, without hairs above, 5-lobed, each lobe shallowly lobed and coarsely round-toothed; stem leaves 1 or 2, greatly reduced.

FLOWERS — (a) white; inflorescence glandular-hairy, open, linear-bracteate, many flowered, branches of inflorescence and flower stems thread-like.

FRUIT — elliptic crescent-shaped seed (b) covered with curved conical spines.

HABITAT — streambanks, crevices of moist rocks, woodlands; from the coast to above timberline.
Other Herbaceous Plants
saxifragaceae (Saxifrage family)

Leptarrhena pyrolifolia
(False saxifrage)

HERB, perennial with robust widespread horizontal rootstock.

LEAVES — mostly basal, leathery, oval-oblong, margin round-toothed, bright green above, pale green beneath; 1-3 smaller leaves on flowering stem.

FLOWERS — (a) white, in a tight cluster at the tip of a 20-40 cm long stem; in fall flowering stem and seeds are purplish-red.

HABITAT — streambanks and wet ground, in subalpine and alpine meadows.

Mitella breweri
(Brewer’s mitrewort)

HERB, perennial with leafless flowering stem, 10-40 cm tall.

LEAVES — with none to few brownish hairs, heart-to-kidney-shaped, very shallowly and indistinctly 7-11 lobed, lightly rounded-toothed.

FLOWERS — in racemes of 20 to 60 flowers; greenish-yellow, saucer-shaped; petals pinnately dissected into hair-like structures (a); stamens 5, alternate with petals.

FRUIT — a capsule.

HABITAT — moist mountain valleys, and open to wooded slopes, to timberline.
Other Herbaceous Plants
Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage family)

Mitella nuda
(Stoloniferous mitrewort)

HERB, rhizomatous, usually stoloniferous; erect flowering stems 3-20 cm tall.

LEAVES — blades heart-shaped to kidney-shaped, 1-3 cm long, doubly round-toothed, sparsely hairy on upper surface.

FLOWERS — inflorescence 3-12 flowered; calyx broadly bell-shaped-saucer-shaped, lobed ½ length; petals (a) greenish-yellow, dissected into 8 threadlike lateral divisions; 10 stamens, distinguishes this species from all other Mitella spp.

FRUIT — a capsule.

HABITAT — damp woods, along streambanks in bogs.

Mitella pentandra
(Alpine mitrewort)

HERB, perennial, occasionally with creeping shoots, 20-30 cm tall.

LEAVES — hairy and glandular, oval-heart-shaped shallowly and indistinctly 5-9 lobed and round-toothed.

FLOWERS — in an elongated cluster of 6-25 flowers, saucer-shaped; petals greenish, dissected into 4-10 thread-like segments (a); stamens 5, opposite petals.

FRUIT — a capsule.

HABITAT — moist woods especially along streams and in wet meadows, subalpine in the Kitwanga-Hazelton area.
Other Herbaceous Plants

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage family)

Tellima grandiflora
(Tall fringecup)

HERB, perennial with flowering stem glandular-hairy and up to 80 cm tall.

LEAVES — basal ones conspicuously hairy, oval heart-shaped, shallowly 5-7 lobed with rounded teeth; stem leaves 1-3 and reduced.

FLOWERS — in 10-35 flowered elongated cluster; calyx greenish; petals greenish-white to deep reddish, often colouring with age, forming fringe (a) around calyx.

FRUIT — a capsule.

HABITAT — common along streams, in woods and generally on rich soils; from sea level to subalpine, along moist roadsides in the Kitwanga-Hazelton area in the lower subalpine.

Tiarella trifoliata
(Trefoil foamflower)

HERB, perennial with slender rootstock, horizontal to ascending.

LEAVES — 3-foliate (a), leaflets lobed not more than half their length, serrated.

FLOWERS — (b) white in elongated cluster, flower stem with a single leaf.

FRUIT — a capsule.

HABITAT — moist woods, especially along streambanks. Widespread, moist shaded sites, medium to rich (especially subhygic sites). In Devil’s club - oak fern and Devil’s club - lady fern ecosystem associations in both coastal and interior zones.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Saxifragaceae* (Saxifrage family)  *Scheuchzeriaceae* (Scheuchzeria family)

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**Tiarella unifoliata**
*(Coolwort foamflower)*

HERB, very similar to *T. trifoliata*.

LEAVES — *simple* and *palmately 5-lobed* (a).

FLOWERS — same as *T. trifoliata*.

FRUIT — a capsule.

HABITAT — same as *T. trifoliata*; often these two species can be found growing side by side.

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**Scheuchzeria palustris** ssp. *americana*
*(Scheuchzeria)*

HERB, semi-aquatic, yellowish-green, low, bog perennial, with yellow-grey creeping rootstock; flowering stems 20-40 cm tall, covered at base with withering and persistant leaves.

LEAVES — *alternate*, with membranous sheaths at base; blades erect, *tubular, with round pore at tip*; basal leaves 20-40 cm long; stem leaves gradually reduced upward, elongate ligule present.

FLOWERS — (a) inflorescence *3-12 flowered; perianth greenish-white*.

FRUIT — follicle with short, divergent beak, 1-2 seeded.

HABITAT — with *Sphagnum* in bogs, with sedges on lake margins, widespread both coastal and interior.
Other Herbaceous Plants
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort family)

**Castilleja miniata**
(Scarlet paintbrush)

HERB, perennial with few, erect or ascending stems from a woody base, to 80 cm tall.

LEAVES — linear to lance-shaped usually entire (a), without or with fine hairs.

FLOWERS — greenish, mostly concealed by bracts; inflorescence conspicuous, composed of bright red to scarlet toothed and hairy bracts (b).

HABITAT — open areas, mostly at relatively low elevations, common in B.C.

**Melampyrum lineare var. lineare**
(Narrow-leaved cow-wheat)

HERB, slender annual with stems simple or few-branched, 10-30 cm tall.

LEAVES — opposite, short petiolate, linear or lance-shaped.

FLOWERS — (a) white or pinkish with yellow palate, with bracts (b) scarcely differentiated from the proper leaves.

HABITAT — dry woods, especially pine stands.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Typhaceae* (Cattail family)  
*Urticaceae* (Nettle family)

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**Typha latifolia**  
(Cattail)

**HERB**, semi-aquatic, coarse perennial with stems 1-3 m tall.

**LEAVES** — linear blades 0.8-2 cm broad, greyish-green.

**FLOWERS** — male (a) and female (b) flowers separate in a *brown club-like inflorescence* on the end of a flowering stalk.

**HABITAT** — in shallow, standing or slow moving water, marshes and swamps.

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**Urtica dioica**  
ssp. *gracilis*  
(Slapping nettle)

**HERB**, strongly rhizomatous perennial, 1-3 m tall. *Produces an irritating rash on contact with skin.*

**LEAVES** — narrow lance-shaped to oval or heart-shaped, *opposite* coarsely serrated; can be cooked and eaten as greens when young.

**FLOWERS** — greenish, *inconspicuous*, without petals, in axillary inflorescence.

**HABITAT** — moist, shaded lowlands to montane slopes; in deep rich soil or near moisture.
Other Herbaceous Plants

Violaceae (Violet family)

KEY TO THE COMMON VIOLETS (VIOLA spp.)
Adapted from Hitchcock 1973

1a. Petals predominantly white, often with bluish or purplish shading, but not yellow.
   2a. Plants producing annual, flower-bearing elongate to short and tufted leafy stems. Petals
       usually shaded with some yellow at least basally ........................................ Viola canadensis

2b. Plants not producing annual flower-bearing stems, the flowers pedunculate on the main
    rhizome.
   3a. Petals generally tinged with some violet or blue on the back, stolons well-developed,
       leaves 2.5 cm wide ........................................ V. palustris

   3b. Petals seldom other than pure white (aside from purplish pencilling).
        4a. Stolons lacking, leaves usually 3 cm wide, kidney-shaped, often with long soft
            spreading hairs on the lower surface ........................................ V. renifolia

        4b. Stolons present, leaves usually 3 cm wide, heart-shaped, glabrous ..................

1b. Petals predominantly blue, violet or yellowish rather than white.

5a. Corolla blue to purple definitely not yellow.
   6a. Stolons present, very slender and elongate, the leaves arising from the rhizomes, erect
       leafy stems lacking ........................................ V. palustris

   6b. Stolons absent or if present the plant has erect leafy stems
        7a. Aerial stems well developed. Leaves kidney-shaped, many 4 cm broad; plant
            mainly 15 cm ........................................ V. canadensis

        7b. Aerial stems lacking or at least shorter than the peduncles which are borne mainly
            on the rhizomes

8a. Head of style not bearded.

9a. Plants with conspicuous leafy stems ........................................ V. langsdorffii

9b. Plant with scarcely any development of erect leafy stems ................................ V. nephrophylla

8b. Head of style bearded ........................................ V. adenca

5b. Corolla partially or wholly yellow.
   10a. Flowers not confined to the tip of erect branches, the stems leafy and floriferous
        below. Flowers lemon-yellow to gold; 3 lower petals purplish pencilled, leaves not
        purple-flecked ........................................ V. orbiculata

   10b. Flowers from near the tip of erect leafy stems that are naked below.
       11a. Upper petals yellow on back ........................................ V. globella

       11b. Upper petals bluish-red on back ........................................ V. canadensis
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Violaceae* (Violet family)

- *Viola canadensis*
- *Viola adunca*
- *Viola palustris*
- *Viola renifolia*
- *Viola orbiculata*
- *Viola macloskeyi*
- *Viola langsdorfii*
- *Viola glabella*
- *Viola nephrophylla*
Other Herbaceous Plants

Violaceae (Violet family)

Viola adunca
ssp. adunca
(Hook violet)

HERB, perennial with short to elongate, slender rhizomes, usually stemless in early part of season later developing aerial stems.

LEAVES — oval-lance-shaped to kidney-shaped, margin finely round-toothed; stipules linear lance-shaped, entire to slender toothed.

FLOWERS — blue to deep violet, the lower three often whitish based.

HABITAT — in dry to moist meadows, woods and open ground, near timberline.

Viola canadensis
ssp. rydbergii
(Canada violet)

HERB, perennial with short thick rootstock and often with slender, creeping stolons; stems 10-40 cm.

LEAVES — heart-shaped, long-stemmed, usually hairy on one or both surfaces, margin serrated.

FLOWERS — occurring on upper portion of stem. white with yellow base, purplish-tinged on outside.

HABITAT — in moist woodland and forest, usually in loamy soils or alluvial floodplains.
**Other Herbaceous Plants**

*Violaceae* (Violet family)

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**Viola glabella**  
(Stream violet)

HERB, perennial *with spreading scaly, fleshy rootstock*; flowering stem leafless except on upper most section.

LEAVES — somewhat kidney-shaped to heart-shaped, serrated, without or more commonly with hairs, basal leaves with long stems.

FLOWERS — occurring mostly on upper portion of stem, *yellow with 3 lower petals purplish-pencilled."

HABITAT — fairly moist woods or along streams; found in moist, rich forested sites in CWHf (Devil’s club-lady fern sites), ICHg and ESSF.

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**Viola langsdorffii**  
(Aleutian violet)

HERB, perennial *with widespread, thick rootstocks*; plants with rather conspicuous, erect, leafy stems, 2-10 cm tall.

LEAVES — stipules egg-shaped to lance-shaped; leaf blades kidney-shaped to egg-shaped-heart-shaped, round-toothed, 2-5 cm broad.

FLOWERS — 15-20 mm long, spur conspicuous, saclike; *petals violet*, lower three whitish-based, lateral pair white bearded.

HABITAT — moist places, bogs, alpine tundra.
Other Herbaceous Plants

*Violaceae* (Violet family)

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**Viola macloskeyi**

*(Small white violet)*

HERB, perennial with slender rootstocks and *thread-like stolons*, 3-6 cm tall, without erect, aerial flowering stems.

LEAVES — stipules lance-shaped, membranous, glandular-toothed; petioles 2-4 cm long; leaf blades egg-shaped-heart-shaped, 1-3 cm long, round-toothed.

FLOWERS — 5-10 mm long, on stems exceeding leaves; spur fairly prominent; *petals white, lower three purple-pencilled, lateral pair bearded.*

HABITAT — boggy or wet ground in mountains.

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**Viola nephrophylla**

*(Northern bog violet)*

HERB, perennial with widespread, shallow, *fleshy rhizomes*; leaves clustered in basal rosette as leafy part of stem very short.

LEAVES — stipules linear-lance-shaped, entire; leaf blades deeply egg-shaped-heart-shaped to heart-shaped-triangular, round-toothed, glabrous.

FLOWERS — 10-20 mm long, on stems equalling or exceeding leaves; spur short, saclike; *petals bluish-violet*, lower three whitish at base, prominently bearded (a).

HABITAT — moist places, especially in meadows and along streams and open woods.
Other Herbaceous Plants

**Viola orbiculata**
(Round-leaved violet)

HERB, perennial with flowering stem not over 5 cm tall.

LEAVES — oval to nearly circular, thin, serrated, often persistent over winter.

FLOWERS — lemon-yellow to gold, with 3 lower petals purplish-pencilled.

HABITAT — on alpine and montane slopes and in coniferous forests.

**Viola palustris**
(Marsh violet)

HERB, perennial from slender widespread rhizomes and creeping stolons, without erect flowering stems, flowers and leaves arising from rhizomes.

LEAVES — stipules chaffy, lance-shaped, entire; leaf blades heart-shaped to kidney-shaped, round-toothed.

FLOWERS — 10-13 mm long, sepals with small lobe at base; spur conspicuous saclike; petals white, generally tinged with violet or blue on back, lateral pair sparsely bearded.

HABITAT — moist meadows, along streams.
**Viola renifolia**
(Kidney-leaved violet)

**HERB,** perennial from short ascending rootstocks; horizontal rhizomes and stolons lacking.

**LEAVES** — stipules lance-shaped, toothed; leaf blades heart-shaped-circular to kidney-shaped, round-toothed, hairy; clustered in basal rosette.

**FLOWERS** — petals pure white, lower 3 purple pencilled, all beardless; flowers on stems shorter than the leaves.

**HABITAT** — lowland forest to subalpine slopes, cool woods, boggy swamps.