

More Palouse Forbs for Landscaping.

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November, 2005

The following is an additional list of native forbs which may be found in the Palouse region. These forbs may be less suitable for the landscape because of growth habit, aggressiveness, difficulty in propagating and growing, rarity, or it simply may be that we haven't yet tried to do anything with them. For a list of Palouse forbs which may be more suitable for landscaping and about which we have more information to share, please see "**Characteristics and Uses of Native Palouse Forbs in Landscaping.**"

Nomenclature used in this document also follows Hitchcock, C. Leo, and Arthur Cronquist. 1973. Flora of the Pacific Northwest. Univ. of Washington Press. Seattle, WA. In order to facilitate searching for a particular species, we have included some common names and alternate scientific names, but this is by no means intended to be a comprehensive source of common names or synonyms.

Detailed information on propagation of many native species can be found at
<<http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu/network/search.asp?SearchType=Continental>>

Agastache urticifolia is probably too large a plant for a small garden. Requires a moist site. Easy to grow from seed. Plants have a minty smell and a very interesting flower. Common names include nettle-leaved giant hyssop, horsemint.

Agoseris grandiflora is not a particularly attractive plant, it looks rather like a weed. Short-lived and attracts rodents, which eat the taproot and kill the plants. Easy to grow from seed, which is wind-borne and goes everywhere. A good plant for a wild setting but probably not for a more formal landscape situation. Sow in fall or early spring. Seed does not require stratification. Blooms in early summer.

Agoseris heterophylla is a small annual, probably not a good garden subject. Easy to grow from seed. Likes a dry, open site. Seed is also wind-borne. Might be a good pioneer species in a more wild situation.

Allium acuminatum is attractive in flower. Difficult to grow from seed and takes a long time to flower. It is short and needs to grow where it is not overtopped at flowering time in late June. Leaves wither by flowering time. Does well on shallow soils. Common names include Hooker's onion, taper-leaf onion.

Amsinckia spp. are native, but just being native does not preclude them from being nasty weeds. If you have them in your garden, pull them up, but wear gloves. The plants are covered with short, stiff hairs which penetrate the skin and are quite irritating. Common names usually include some form of fiddleneck or tarweed.

Antennaria luzuloides is an interesting, low growing plant. Blooms early. Dried inflorescence is interesting as well and could probably be used in dried flower arrangements. Seed seems to require long stratification, but haven't grown enough to be positive. Common name is woodrush pussytoes.

Antennaria microphylla prefers more mesic sites than *A. luzuloides* but blooms about the same time. None of us have any experience with this plant. Other names include rosy pussytoes, *Antennaria rosea*.

Arenaria congesta can pass for a grass at a cursory glance. It is interesting, but not particularly stunning. Seeds appear to benefit from stratification. Likes dry sites. Common names include capitate sandwort, ballhead sandwort, dense-flowered sandwort.

Asclepias speciosa sometimes has weedy connotations, although probably not deserved. It is an important food for the monarch butterfly larva, which is rare on the Palouse, possibly because

milkweed is not common. Can be grown from seed. It does spread by rhizomes and is probably too aggressive for a small garden. Should be better in a more wild setting. Common name is showy milkweed.

Aster jessicae is a large plant that may be too aggressive in a small garden or yard. Blooms very late in the season and well grown plants will be covered with bluish flowers. Strongly rhizomatous. Needs late season moisture and full sun. Plants grown in partial shade get leggy and are subject to mildew. You should only grow this plant if you can get it from another gardener. It is a rare species and natural populations should be left alone and enjoyed where they are. Other names include Jessica's aster, *Symphyotrichum jessicae*.

Astragalus arrectus is a rare species endemic to the Palouse. It should not be collected. Other names include Palouse milkvetch, *Astragalus palousensis*.

Astragalus canadensis seed needs to be scarified. It is one of the most widely adapted species of *Astragalus*. Weakly rhizomatous, blooms in June. Common name is Canada milkvetch.

Barbarea orthoceras is probably not a good garden subject. Needs a moist site. Blooms in the spring. Common names include American watercress, American winter cress, American yellowrocket.

Calochortus elegans has a great flower but is easy to overlook because it is so short. Must be grown from seed planted on site. Bulbs do not survive transplanting. Enjoy it where it grows and do not attempt to move it. Common names include elegant sego lily, elegant mariposa lily, elegant star tulip, hairy cat's ear.

Calochortus macrocarpus has a wonderful flower but is easy to overlook when not in bloom because the strap-like leaves don't stand out by themselves. Flowers in July when other natives are beginning to senesce, and is much taller than *C. elegans*. Must be grown from seed planted on site. Bulbs do not survive transplanting. This one too should be enjoyed where it grows. Do not attempt to move it. Common names include sagebrush mariposa or sego lily, green banded star-tulip.

Calochortus nitidus is rare and is possibly extirpated from Washington. Some populations still exist in Idaho. If you are lucky enough to find it in the wild, take some photographs, but leave it strictly alone. Common names include broad-fruit or big-fruit mariposa lily.

Calypso bulbosa is an orchid which grows in the forest. It is very difficult to grow and seeds will only germinate in the presence of the proper mycorrhizae. It cannot be transplanted. It is said that picking the flower kills the plant. It should be enjoyed where it grows in the wild and left there. Common names include fairy slipper, Venus-slipper, lady slipper

Castilleja miniata is one of many paintbrushes we haven't tried, but it is supposed to be easier to grow than the more xeric species. It is more of a forest species, but sometimes grows with *Crataegus douglasii* (Douglas' hawthorn). Might be a good plant for a lightly wooded area with enough moisture. Common names include common paintbrush, scarlet paintbrush.

Cirsium brevifolium is probably not a good garden species. Spreads slowly from rhizomes. Also a rare plant which is further threatened by a biocontrol agent which crossed over to this species from the intended target. Leave it alone if you find it in the wild. Common name is Palouse thistle.

Claytonia lanceolata seems like it would be a good garden plant, but we haven't done anything with it. Seed propagation might be tricky. Blooms early in spring, then disappears until the next year. You might want to mark the position of the plants so you don't hoe or dig them up late in the season. Common names include spring beauty, Indian potato.

Collinsia parviflora is a tiny little plant with great little flowers that bloom early in the spring. Seems like it would be good sown around other plants for early color. Self sows readily but doesn't persist where it is overtopped early in the season. Seeds need to be sown in autumn for best results. While it is a winter annual, some seeds will germinate in unusually cool springs, although the plants don't thrive like fall sown plants. Common name is blue-eyed Mary.

Comandra umbellata is an interesting plant but don't know if it would grow in a garden. None of us have any experience with it. It is at least partially parasitic on other plants. Also an alternate host for a rust which attacks lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*). Common name is bastard toadflax.

***Crepis* species** might be good plants for dry sites. There are several species locally. Haven't done anything with them yet. Common name is hawksbeard.

Cypripedium fasciculatum and ***Cypripedium montanum*** are both forest species although *C. montanum* does sometimes grow under hawthorn. Like most orchids, they are very difficult to grow. No one should be collecting seed or plants of either one. Enjoy them where they occur and otherwise leave them alone. Common names are clustered ladyslipper and mountain ladyslipper, respectively.

Dodecatheon pulchellum takes a while to grow and it needs space where it isn't overtopped by other plants early in the season, but it is beautiful when in flower. Grows from seeds planted outside in fall. Transplants should be set out in the fall so they can begin growing while it is still too muddy to work in the garden in early spring. Blooms in May and goes dormant by mid June. Common names includes some variation of shooting star.

Epilobium angustifolium is definitely too aggressive for a garden. Might be useful in a wild setting. The Palouse is the lower end of its ecological amplitude and it needs more moist sites to survive here. Flowers are great and attract many species of bees. Starts blooming in late June and continues on through July. Other names include *Chamerion angustifolium*, fireweed.

Erigeron corymbosus blooms in early July. Don't know much about it at present. Erigerons seem less aggressive than asters. Common names include long-leaved fleabane, foothill daisy.

Erigeron filifolius should be good for dry sites. Haven't worked with this one. Common name is thread-leaved fleabane.

Eriogonum heracleoides should be a great plant for a rock garden or a very dry area. The seed doesn't germinate at very high rates, but it can be grown from seed. Germination is higher after stratification. It will flower the year following transplanting. Blooms in late June. The dried bracts hold their color well and give the plant interest long after the actual flowering has been completed. Common names include creamy buckwheat, Wyeth buckwheat, parsnip-flowered buckwheat.

Eriophyllum lanatum flowers are pretty and foliage is covered with short hairs so the whole plant is a grey-green color except the yellow flowers. Haven't tried this one either. It should do well on a dry site. Blooms in June. Common name is Oregon sunshine.

Erythronium grandiflorum has great yellow flowers with reflexed petals (actually tepals) and dangling dark red anthers. Blooms early in the season. Takes a while to grow from seed, but the wait is worth it. Sow seeds in pots outdoors and leave them out there, but protect them from rodents. Rodents eat the bulbs (and bears, too). Will not survive in a greenhouse. Bulbs are available from mail-order nurseries. Common names include avalanche lily, glacier lily, snow lily, adders-tongue, lamb's tongue, dog-tooth violet.

Fragaria virginiana is more of a forest species but sometimes grows in moist hawthorn thickets. Birds always get the fruit before you can. The seeds probably pass through the bird and are deposited elsewhere, but that's not a very effective or pleasant way to collect them. Common name includes some form of strawberry.

Frasera albicaulis has great flowers, but the seed heads after flowering are nothing to write home about. Flowers in early June. No information on seed germination. Common name is shining frasera.

Fritillaria pudica has nice yellow flowers early in the season. Takes 5-6 years to grow from seed to flowering plants. Sow seeds in pots outdoors and leave them out there. Will not survive in a greenhouse. Bulbs are available from some mail-order nurseries. Common names include yellow bell, yellow fritillary.

Gentiana affinis seed germination is tricky but the flowers are worth the trouble. They bloom in late July and on through August, so the plants need to grow on moist sites like north slopes. Common name is prairie gentian.

Goodyera oblongifolia is a forest plant and member of the orchid family. It should not be collected. Enjoy it where it grows and leave it alone. Common name is rattlesnake plantain.

Grindelia squarrosa is a weedy native biennial or short-lived perennial which probably has no place in a garden setting but might be a component of a wilder planting. Drought tolerant. Common names include resin-weed and curly-cup gumweed.

Habenaria elegans*, *Habenaria unalascensis and any other rein-orchids are members of the orchid family which grow in dappled shade under shrubs and Ponderosa pine. They should be enjoyed where they grow and left alone. Do not collect seed from them.

Haplopappus carthamoides is not a very attractive garden plant. The bare calyx after the seeds have been shed is more attractive than the flowers. Seed predators are common. Other names include large-flowered goldenweed, Columbia goldenweed, *Pyrrocoma carthamoides*.

Haplopappus liatriflorus flowers are more attractive than *H. carthamoides*. Blooms late in the season. Individual plants are rather spindly, but it looks better in groups. Seems to be short-lived. This is a rare species endemic only to the Palouse Prairie. It occurs nowhere else in the world. Do not collect seed or plants. Other names include Palouse goldenweed, *Pyrrocoma liatriflorus*.

Hydrophyllum capitatum is an interesting little plant for shady areas. It flowers, then goes dormant rather early in the season. Mark the plants so you don't hoe or dig them up by accident during the summer and fall. Germination requirements are unknown, but it probably needs to be sown in the fall outdoors. Common names include ballhead waterleaf, wool breeches.

Hydrophyllum fendleri likes moist shade but sometimes occurs in sunnier places, where it is usually shorter and more compact than shaded plants. Common name is Fendler's waterleaf.

Idahoia scapigera silicles are attractive. Flowers are inconspicuous. An annual which likes dry sites. It blooms and dries up early in the season. Common names include Idahoia, scalepod, pepperpod.

Lathyrus bijugatus and several other native species of *Lathyrus* aren't seen very often. Don't know much about them. Common name is some form of peavine.

Lithophragma bulbifera and ***Lithophragma parviflora*** both have charming white flowers on tiny plants that bloom early in the spring, then disappear. Mark the position of the plants so you don't hoe or dig them up late in the season. Seed needs long stratification and cool growing conditions. In the wild, most plants remain vegetative in any given year, only a few bloom. Might bloom more often in a garden. Can also be grown from bulblets produced on the roots of both species and also at the base of the petiole in *L. bulbifera*. Should be good rock garden subjects. Common names include prairie-star, fringe cup, rocketstar, woodlandstar, baby face.

Lithospermum ruderale is often pretty scraggly in the wild, but can be an attractive plant in an ornamental setting. It is a member of the Borage family and has the typical irritating hairs of many borages. Difficult to grow from seed. Flowers are small and pale yellow, opening in May, not very showy. The plant has an interesting color and form and the seeds are very hard, white nutlets. Common names include western gromwell, Columbia puccoon, cat's tooth, lemonweed.

Lomatium farinosum is a very early species found mostly in the canyon grasslands. Uncommon elsewhere. Native Americans ground the roots into a meal, thus the species name. Sometimes called Coeur d'Alene lomatium or biscuitroot.

Lomatium gormanii has brilliant white flowers with purple anthers that give it the common name "salt and pepper." It thrives in rocky areas by growing during the winter. During a mild spell in December or January it will often bloom. Should be a great rock garden plant.

Lomatium grayi is not the best looking of the lomatiums, but seems to be the most widely adapted. Blooms in April. Seeds germinate after long stratification. Like all lomatiums, it goes dormant early. Common name is Gray's lomatium or biscuitroot.

Lomatium macrocarpum has grey-green foliage and white flowers which make it an interesting plant. Likes dry, rocky places where it flowers in April. Grows readily from seed after long stratification. Common names include grey lomatium, bigseed lomatium, large-fruited lomatium or biscuitroot.

Lotus purshianus is a small annual with yellow and pink flowers. Seems to grow in a variety of places, but we have no experience with it. Pods twist open explosively when ripe and scatter seed. Common name is Spanish clover.

Lupinus laxiflorus seed may hold in the pods longer than some of the other species of lupine. Haven't grown this one, but see no reason it wouldn't be a good species. Other names include *Lupinus arbustus*, spurred lupine.

Lupinus polyphyllus prefers mesic conditions, but sometimes occurs on drier sites. It is one of the parents of the Russell lupines commonly grown in gardens but it did not survive in the xeriscape garden at the University of Idaho Arboretum. Common names include bigleaf lupine, large-leaved lupine.

Mertensia longiflora has pretty blue flowers on short, stocky plants. Blooms early in the season, then goes dormant. None of us have tried this species, but it should be a good garden plant. Probably needs stratification and cool growing conditions. Common names include long-flowered bluebells, long-flowered Mertensia, trumpet lungwort.

Microseris nutans flowers are yellow and similar to a dandelion, but the plants are much better behaved. The deeply toothed leaves are interesting. Grows easily from stratified seed. Plants with low levels of competition grow large and flower over a long period, beginning in May. Seed is windborne. Common name is nodding microseris.

Microsteris gracilis is an annual that reseeds itself. There is not much to recommend about this species as a garden plant. It can be weedy but is usually so small it causes little harm. Seeds need to be stratified or fall sown. Other names include pink microsteris, *Gilia gracilis*, *Phlox gracilis*.

Mimulus guttatus has tiny red spots on yellow flowers that look like snapdragons. Easy to grow from seed without any pretreatment. Also spreads by stolons. It is an obligate wetland plant and needs to be grown in a seep area or on the edge of a stream or pond. Will not survive on upland sites. Common names include yellow monkey-flower, common monkey-flower.

Montia linearis is a small annual, not especially great looking, but it is interesting. None of us have any experience with it. Probably requires stratification and is best sown in place. Other names include narrowleaf miners lettuce, narrow-leaved montia, *Claytonia linearis*.

Montia perfoliata leaves wrap all the way around the stem. Flowers are small and white, not very showy, but the leaves are interesting and they are edible. Likes some shade. Seeds should be fall planted in place, as they need some stratification. Can be weedy. Other names include miner's lettuce, *Claytonia perfoliata*.

Navarretia intertexta and ***Navarretia squarrosa*** are prickly looking small annuals that are probably best left out of a garden. Common names include narrow-leaved navarretia, needleleaf navarretia, skunk-weed, skunkbush. Some older floras placed *Navarretia* in *Gilia*.

Orobanche uniflora is a parasite on the roots of other plants. The only time it comes above the ground is to flower, which it does in late April and early May. Otherwise, one would never know it is around. The flowers are purple and born on a short stalk about 4 inches tall. Don't know how to grow it, but it is probably best to sow seeds among suitable host plants. Common names include naked broomrape, one-flowered broomrape, cancer drops, one-flowered cancer-root.

Orthocarpus tenuifolius is an annual plant very closely related to the paintbrushes. Flowers are yellow and surrounded by pink bracts. The most attractive of the local owl clovers. It is a hemi-parasite like *Castilleja*. Seed germination requirements are unknown, but it should probably be sown with a host plant. Common name is thin-leaf owl-clover.

Penstemon venustus is found more frequently in the moister areas of Idaho, but also sometimes in the upper elevations of the canyon grasslands. Has large purple flowers and serrated leaves. Tends to flop over, so might need some support. Seeds need light to germinate so they should be surface sown. "Clearwater" is a selected class release originating from the Clearwater River in Idaho. Common names include elegant, lovely, Venus, and Clearwater penstemon.

Perideridia gairdneri flowers late in the season. The small white flowers are borne in compound umbels. Leaves are pinnately compound with long, narrow leaflets and may wither by flowering time. It grows each year from a thickened tuber-like portion of the root, which is edible and was prized by Native Americans. Seeds germinate after stratification. May take several years to grow containerized

stock to transplanting size. Stock is best outplanted in the fall when dormant. The plants grow tall and may need support in a garden situation. Other names include Gairdner's yampah, western yampah, false caraway, *Carum gairdneri*.

Phacelia hastata and ***Phacelia heterophylla*** are probably not great garden subjects. Despite their resemblance to the Borage family, they are actually members of the Hydrophyllaceae. The plants are not very attractive. They grow tall and fall over, and the inflorescence is covered with irritating hairs like the borages. Might be of more use in a wilder setting or for erosion control and stabilization purposes. Easy to grow from seed and re-seeds itself readily. Biennials or short-lived perennials. Can be spring sown, stratification does not increase germination. Common names are common or whiteleaf phacelia and virgate or varileaf phacelia, respectively.

***Plagiobothrys* spp.** are small annual borages with small white flowers. They prefer vernal wet sites. Probably not good garden plants. Haven't tried to collect seed or grow it. Common name is usually some form of popcorn flower.

Plectritis macrocera is commonly called longhorn plectritis, white plectritis, or desert corn-salad. None of us have any experience with this species.

Polemonium micranthum is another species for which we have no experience. Common names include annual polemonium, Jacob's ladder.

Polygonum douglasii is a slender annual plant with slender leaves and white flowers. Seems to prefer rocky sites. Grows easily from seed, but stratification will increase germination. Might be best to sow seed in place. Probably not a good garden subject, but an interesting plant for dry areas or possibly in a rock garden. Common name is Douglas' knotweed.

Polygonum majus. Don't know anything about it. Common names include wiry knotweed, Palouse knotweed.

Ranunculus glaberrimus plants stay low to the ground and often bloom in March. The shiny yellow flowers are one of the first signs of spring. Once the seeds are mature, the plants senesce and it is almost impossible to find them. You might want to mark the position of the plants so you don't hoe or dig them up late in the season. Seed germination requirements are not known. Common name is sagebrush buttercup.

Ranunculus uncinatus seeds need stratification. Likes moist and/or shady places. Found under trees and shrubs and along streams. Flowers in June. Common names include woods buttercup, woodland buttercup, little buttercup.

Saxifraga integrifolia and ***Saxifraga nidifica*** aren't seen very often. Don't know anything about them. Common names include some form of saxifrage.

Scrophularia lanceolata. Don't know anything about it. Common name is lance-leaf figwort.

Scutellaria angustifolia is an interesting little plant with purple flowers. It likes dry, often rocky places. Might be a good rock garden plant. We have no experience growing it. Common name is narrow-leaf skullcap.

Scutellaria antirrhinoides is very similar to *S. angustifolia*, except it tends to be taller and the leaves are somewhat wider. Likes the same habitats, but found in more mesic habitats as well. Common name is snapdragon skullcap.

Sedum stenopetalum seems like it would be a good species for the rock garden, but we haven't worked with it. Flowers in early June. It is supposedly possible to propagate from stem cuttings. Common names include wormleaf stonecrop, Douglas' stonecrop.

Senecio integerrimus is certainly not a very beautiful plant. Grows and flowers early in the season, then goes dormant by summer. May be short-lived. Seeds need extended stratification to germinate and cool growing conditions to survive. Grow in full sun. Common name is western groundsel.

Senecio serra is better looking than its cousin *S. integerrimus*, but it spreads readily in suitable habitats and can be invasive. Much too aggressive for the average garden. Might be useful in a moist wild or semi-wild area. Masses of yellow flowers bloom in late June or early July. Common name is serrated groundsel.

Silene douglasii is probably the best looking of all the native Catchflies. It has white flowers. Have grown a few from seed, but the germination is never high. Common name is Douglas' catchfly.

Silene scouleri is not very attractive even as plants of the genus *Silene* go. The white flowers bloom late in the season and don't last very long. Glandular hairs cover the plant and insects adhere to the sticky substance, making it truly a catchfly. It's interesting from that standpoint. Common name is Scouler's catchfly.

Silene spaldingii is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. It is a rare species which only occurs in extreme eastern Washington and parts of northern Idaho and western Montana. Under no circumstances should it be disturbed nor should any seed be removed from the site. If you happen to find some plants, count yourself among the fortunate, take some photographs, and leave the plants strictly alone. Common names include Spalding's catchfly or Spalding's silene.

Stellaria longipes, *Stellaria crispa*, and *Stellaria nitens*. We have no information or experience with any of these species at present. Common names are long-stalked starwort, crisped starwort, and shining chickweed, respectively.

Tonella floribunda is a small annual that resembles *Collinsia parviflora*. It has small blue flowers with interesting patterns, but you need a hand lens to really appreciate them. Don't see it much except on the breaks of the Snake River. None of us have tried to grow it. Might be a good rock garden subject. Common names include large-flowered tonella, many-flowered tonella.

Trillium ovatum has large white flowers which turn pink with age. They are low growing plants which bloom in late April. Seeds of Trilliums are sometimes for sale in garden stores. They apparently require 6-7 years to flower from seed. Some specialty nurseries sell plants. They need moist shade and are usually a forest species. Common names include western trillium, wake-robin, white trillium, birthroot.

Trillium petiolatum hides its flower under the leaves. The flower is dark purple and not as showy or large as *T. ovatum*. Needs moist shade at least part of the day. More of a forest species but does sometimes grow under hawthorns. Common names include round-leaved trillium, purple trillium, petioled wake-robin.

Valeriana edulis is not a real charming plant. It is tall and rank with white flowers blooming in June. Have grown a few plants, but can't say we know what makes it germinate. Common names include edible valerian, tobacco-root.

Vicia americana doesn't seem to be very common. Has a few reddish legume flowers. As with most legumes, the seed probably needs to be scarified. Common name is American vetch.

Viola adunca is a wonderful little plant with light purple flowers and a long spur. It should make a good garden plant, but we haven't tried to grow it. Finding it when the seed is ripe is difficult. Common names include early blue violet, hooked violet, hookspur violet, western long-spurred violet.

Zigadenus venenosus always gets a bad rap for being poisonous and is probably not a good garden subject for that reason, especially around children, even though the flowers are quite showy. White flowers appear in a dense raceme in mid May. Grows from seed sown outdoors in the fall, either in pots or in place. Takes several years to flower from seed. Common name is death camas.

"More Palouse Forbs for Landscaping" and "Characteristics and Uses of Native Palouse Forbs in Landscaping" are published on the website of the Palouse Prairie Foundation at

<<http://www.palouseprairie.org/>>

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