

Bracted Lousewort

Pedicularis bracteosa



Plant and Leaves:

- Often the tallest meadow plant, reaching 3 feet (90 cm)
- Leaves are fernlike, dark green to purple

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Budding:

- Buds cluster in groups of up to 40 on the tall spike-like inflorescence



Flowering:

- Yellow flowers crowd together on a long spike on top of the stem
- If you look closely, each small flower has a hood and a lower lip – some say it looks like a parrot's beak
- Stem and leaves are hairless but the inflorescence is typically hairy



Ripening Fruit:

- The flowers turn into small, green, ball-like capsules that contain the seeds
- There may still be remnants of the flower parts left on the fruits, but the flower parts will be wilted and turning brown
- As the fruit develops the capsules turn from green to brown



Releasing Seed:

- The fruits crack open at the top (like an urn) and release small seeds
- The stalk sounds like a rattle when the seeds are releasing because the capsules, seeds, and stems are so dry

*** **NOTE** *** It is common for individual *Pedicularis* stalks to have multiple phenophases – make careful observations & be sure to consider which phenophases are present and absent.