

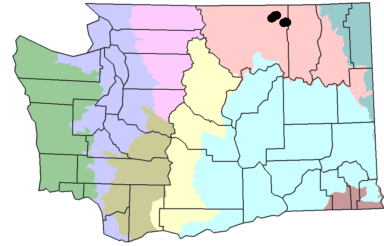
## ***Chryso-splenium tetrandrum*** Th. Fr.

northern golden-carpet

Saxifragaceae - saxifrage family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S2



**General Description:** A small, hairless, creeping perennial with slender, succulent stolons up to 1.5 dm long, rooting at the nodes. Erect tips are up to 10 cm tall, simple below, branched and flowering near the ends. Leaves alternate, mostly basal and clustered near the stem ends. Petioles slender, up to 2 cm long. Blades oval or kidney-shaped, with 3-7 broad, rounded lobes.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers tiny, greenish, about 3 mm broad. Calyx lobes 4, spreading, oval. Petals absent. Stamens 4.

**Fruits:** 2-lobed capsules partially embedded in the calyx cup (a partially inferior ovary). The free portion of the capsule is shorter than the joined portion; after dehiscence the remnants are 4-lobed. Seeds about 0.5 mm long, lentil-shaped, dark brown, and smooth. Identifiable May to July.

**Identification Tips:** The stoloniferous habit and small greenish flowers lacking petals set this species apart from other saxifrages.

**Range:** Circumpolar: throughout Greenland, Canada, AK, and in the Rocky Mts. of MT, ID, and CO. Peripheral in WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Seeps, rock crevices, wet banks, and other open, wet places at low to middle elevations. Also in densely vegetated creek bottoms, streambeds, and other wet sites in woods. Associated with Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), alder (*Alnus viridis* ssp. *sinuata*, *A. incana*), prickly currant (*Ribes lacustre*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp.), monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), monkshood (*Aconitum columbianum*), mosses, grasses, and horsetails (*Equisetum arvense*). *C. tetrandrum* is often found on damp, mossy hummocks in areas that are commonly grazed by cattle. Elevations in WA: 1070-1400 m (3500-4600 ft).

**Comments:** Current threats include livestock grazing, road construction, herbicides, timber harvest, and hydrologic alteration. This species is also rare in ID, MT, Alberta, Labrador, Manitoba, and Ontario.

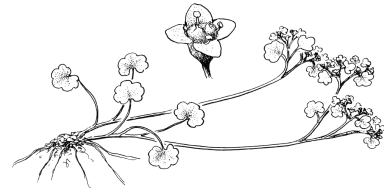


Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
©1961 University of Washington  
Press



photo by John Gamon



© Robert Moseley