

***Draba cana* Rydb.**

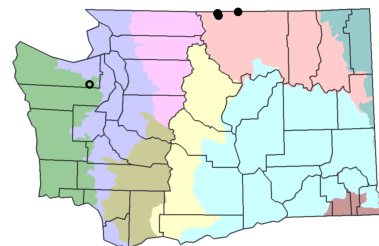
synonym: *Draba lanceolata* Royle (misapplied), *Draba breweri* S. Watson var. *cana* (Rydb.) Rollins

lance-leaved draba

Brassicaceae - mustard family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1S2



General Description: Perennial, ashy-colored, 5-25 cm tall, arising from a simple or branched woody base. Stems several, simple to freely branched, covered with simple to many-branched hairs. Leaves woolly, with soft, star-shaped or many-branched hairs. Basal leaves rosette-forming, oblanceolate, 1-3 cm long, entire to small-toothed, often with simple hairs along the leaf margins. Stem leaves several, narrowly to broadly lanceolate, generally toothed, and covered with mostly forked hairs.

Floral Characteristics: Racemes with 10-50 flowers, elongate in fruit. Petals 4, white, 3-5 mm long, notched at the tip. Stamens 6.

Fruits: Lanceolate to oblong silicle, 4-12 x 1.5-3 mm, soft-hairy with simple to branched hairs, and often somewhat contorted. Style 0.2-0.5 (0.8) mm long. Seeds 20-50, less than 1 mm long. Identifiable May to July; usually in full flower and fruit by late June.

Identification Tips: This species keys to *Draba lanceolata* in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973), though the name has been misapplied to WA plants. It is distinguished from other *Draba* species in its range by its leafy stems and white petals. *D. crassifolia*, *D. incerta*, *D. oligosperma*, *D. paysonii*, and *D. ruaxes* have yellow flowers and leafless stems (but *D. crassifolia* and *D. incerta* can sometimes have 1-2 small leaves on the stem). *D. lonchocarpa** has white flowers, but typically has a leafless stem or sometimes 1-2 small leaves.

Range: North American arctic, south in the Rocky Mts. to UT and NM; also in SD, NV, CA, most of Canada, northeastern U.S., and Eurasia.

Habitat/Ecology: Alpine and subalpine open, dry meadows and knolls, in rock crevices, and on dry stony slopes; associated with high-elevation cushion plant communities. Elevations in WA: 1800-2400 m (5900-7800 ft). Associated species include common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Davidson's penstemon (*Penstemon davidsonii*), kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), prairie lupine (*Lupinus lepidus* var. *lobbyi*), oneflower cinquefoil (*Potentilla ledebouriana*), and draba (*Draba aurea*, *D. stenoloba*).

Comments: This species is peripheral in WA. It is also rare in Alberta, Labrador, Quebec, New Brunswick, Sask., CA, ME, MI, NH, VT, WI, and WY.

References: Hulten 1968; Rollins 1993.



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