

Common Eyebright

Euphrasia nemorosa (Pers.) Wallr.

Synonyms

Euphrasia curta (Fries) Wettst., *Euphrasia officinalis* auct. non L. ssp. *nemorosa* Pers, *Euphrasia stricta* auct.

Description

Common eyebright is a small annual plant that usually grows less than 6 inches high. It has small, deep green leaves and tiny white, open, trumpet-shaped flowers with a divided lower lip and a purple tinge to the outside of the petals, deep lines into the throat, and a yellow blotch on the lower lip.



Photo by Andy Horton

Common eyebright flowers.

Similar Species

There are two similar species in this genus that are native to Alaska and found on dry, grassy heaths, beside paths, and in open woods, on chalky and acidic soils. Arctic eyebright (*Euphrasia subarctica* Raup) and subalpine eyebright (*Euphrasia mollis* (Ledeb.) Wettst.) look similar to common eyebright but can be differentiated by the presence of a white corolla with purple lines and a lavender upper lip.



Photo by Andy Horton

Common eyebright.

Management

Little information is available concerning control methods for common eye-bright. Hand-pulling is being conducted at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and has proven moderately effective after repeated treatments.

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Common Eye-bright

Notes

Common eyebright is native to Europe. The common name comes from its use to make a tincture to improve vision.