



Sask  
Forage  
Council

# FIELD GUIDE

**Identification of  
Common Range  
Plants of  
NORTHERN  
Saskatchewan**

Canada 



Government of  
Saskatchewan

**Cover photo:** Whitebeech Pasture north of  
Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

**Photo credit:** Todd Jorgenson, Saskatchewan Agriculture  
and Food.



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## Introduction

This field guide is intended for basic plant identification and reviews the common range plant species found throughout northern Saskatchewan. It is primarily designed for producers, land managers, and extension personnel. For a more complete listing of plants or more detailed identification, please refer to *Budd's Flora of the Canadian Prairie Provinces* (see references).

There are four sections in this guide, corresponding to the main range plant groups:

- **Grasses**
- **Grass-like Plants**
- **Forbs**
- **Shrubs**

Vegetative and flower characteristics are used to describe plants in this guide, in conjunction with plant illustrations. The species habitat, distribution, and height are included. Growth form is listed if not erect (ie. spreading). The perennial growth habit applies to all species unless otherwise noted (ie. annual, biennial). The season of flowering for the forbs and shrubs is also included.

Some of the plant species in this field guide have a “Similar Species” box next to the illustration. These plants are closely related to the illustrated plant, but have distinguishing features. To differentiate between species, only these distinguishing features are listed.

With ongoing research in taxonomy, the grouping of plants is continually changing where individual species are placed in relation to others. With this reorganization, comes a change in the scientific name. New Latin names are listed in the index in brackets behind the commonly used Latin names.

To help in identifying common range plants in your area, first start in an ungrazed or lightly grazed location. Flowering heads and seeds will assist in the identification process. Then use the following steps to identify the species:

1. Determine the range plant group for the specimen using the key on page one (ie. Grasses, Grass-like Plants, Forbs, Shrubs).
2. Review the basic plant characteristics for each plant group on the introductory page of each section (ie. Grass Plant Parts, Sedge Plant Parts, Leaf Morphology for Forbs and Shrubs).
3. Identify the species by using the illustrations and identifying characteristics.

Three other guides exist in this series to identify plants in other areas or habitats of Saskatchewan. Please contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC), as well as local Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) or Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (AAFC-PFRA) district offices, for copies of this publication and the field guides listed below.

- *Field Guide: Identification of Common Range Plants of Southern Saskatchewan*
- *Field Guide: Identification of Common Riparian Plants of Saskatchewan*
- *Field Guide: Identification of Common Seeded Plants for Forage and Reclamation in Saskatchewan.*

## Acknowledgements

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Illustrations in this field guide were copied and used with permission from a number of sources. Elaine L. Muth of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan produced five of the illustrations, as noted on page 63.

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# Table of Contents

<b>Common Range Plants</b> .....	1
<b>Grasses</b>	
<b>The Grass Plant Parts</b> .....	2
<b>Grass Flowering Heads</b> .....	3
Canada Bluegrass .....	4
Kentucky Bluegrass .....	4
Fringed Brome .....	5
Smooth Brome .....	5
Hairy Wildrye .....	6
Rough Hair Grass .....	6
June Grass .....	7
Green Needle Grass .....	7
Richardson's Needle Grass .....	8
Western Porcupine Grass .....	8
Hooker's Oat Grass .....	9
Timber Oat Grass .....	9
Purple Oat Grass .....	10
Marsh Reed Grass .....	10
Narrow Reed Grass .....	11
Northern Reed Grass .....	11
Northern Rice Grass .....	12
White-grained Mountain Rice Grass .....	12
Canadian Rice Grass .....	13
Slender Wood Grass .....	13
Plains Rough Fescue .....	14
Sweet Grass .....	14
Awned / Bearded Wheatgrass .....	15
Slender Wheatgrass .....	15
Northern Wheatgrass .....	16
Western Wheatgrass / Bluejoint .....	16
Quackgrass .....	17
Canada Wildrye .....	17
<b>Grass-like Plants</b>	
<b>The Sedge Plant Parts</b> .....	18
Hay Sedge .....	19
Sprengel's Sedge .....	19
Northern Bog Sedge .....	20
Cotton Grass .....	20
<b>Forbs</b>	
<b>Leaf Morphology of Shrubs and Forbs</b> .....	21
Lindley's Aster .....	22
Smooth Aster .....	22
Canada Goldenrod .....	23
Arrow-leaved Colt's Foot .....	23
Philadelphia Fleabane .....	24
American Vetch .....	24
Cream-coloured Vetchling .....	25
Wild Pea-vine .....	25
Wild Licorice .....	26
American Hedysarum .....	26
Star-flowered Solomon's Seal .....	27
Two-leaved Solomon's Seal .....	27
Fairybells .....	28
Blue-eyed Grass .....	28

Western Canada Violet .....	29
Northern Bog Violet .....	29
Snakeroot .....	30
Smooth Sweet Cicely .....	30
Cow Parsnip .....	31
Wild Sarsaparilla .....	31
Three-toothed Cinquefoil .....	32
Rough Cinquefoil .....	32
Wild Strawberry .....	33
Yellow Avens .....	33
Baneberry .....	34
Tall Meadow Rue .....	34
Canada Anemone .....	35
Bunchberry .....	35
Tall Lungwort / Bluebell .....	36
Fireweed .....	36
Spreading Dogbane .....	37
Northern Bedstraw .....	37

## **Shrubs**

Shrubby Cinquefoil .....	38
Bearberry .....	38
Wood's Rose .....	39
Pincherry .....	39
Saskatoon .....	40
Chokecherry .....	40
Wild Red Raspberry .....	41
Dewberry .....	41
Wild Black Currant .....	42
Northern Gooseberry .....	42
Western Snowberry / Buckbrush .....	43
Twinflower .....	43
High-bush Cranberry .....	44
Low-bush Cranberry .....	44
Canada Buffaloberry .....	45
Wolfwillow / Silverberry .....	45
Red-Osier Dogwood .....	46
Beaked Hazelnut .....	46
Green Alder .....	47
Bog / Dwarf Birch .....	47
Trembling Aspen .....	48
Balsam Poplar .....	48
Labrador Tea .....	49
Canada Blueberry .....	49

<b>Grazing Response and Forage Value</b> .....	50
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<b>Glossary</b> .....	53
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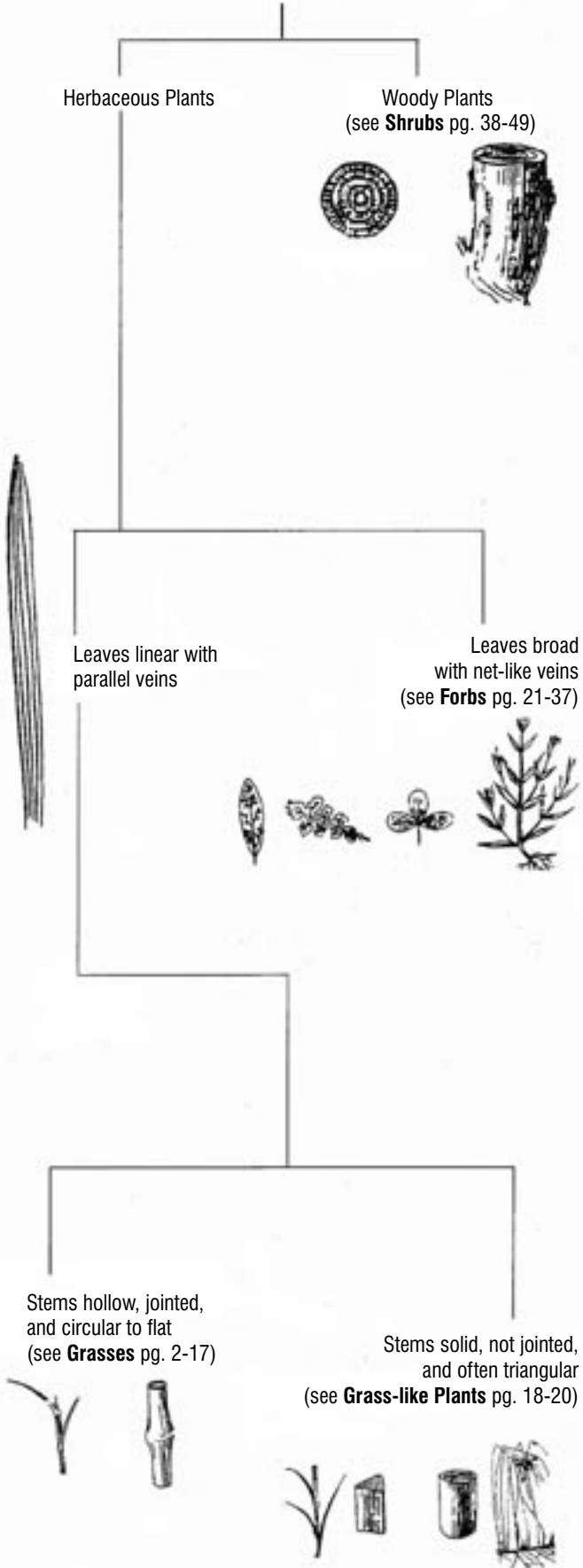
<b>Alphabetical Index by Common Name</b> .....	56
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<b>Alphabetical Index by Latin Name</b> .....	58
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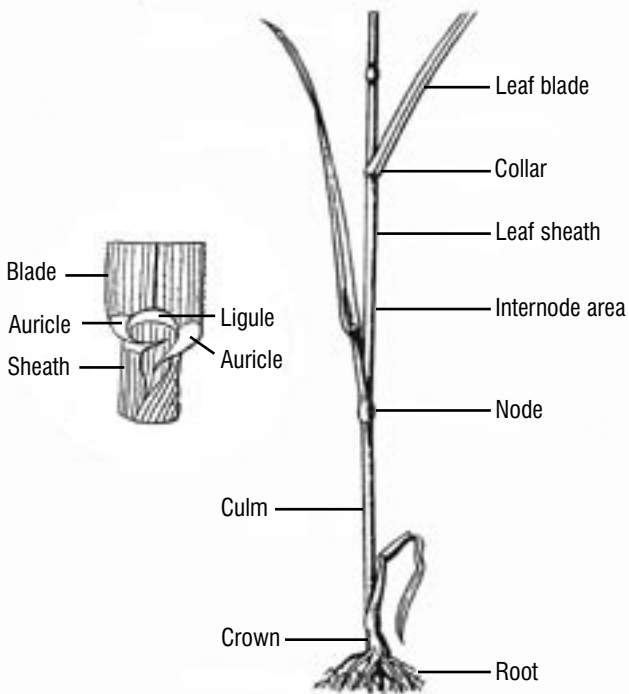
<b>References</b> .....	60
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# Common Range Plants

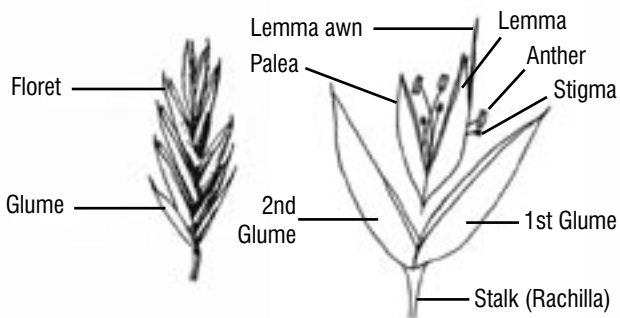


# The Grass Plant Parts



## Spikelet

## Floret



## Fibrous Roots

## Rhizomatous Roots



# Grass Flowering Heads

## A. Spike

Unbranched, terminal flowering head with spikelets attached directly to the central axis (Example: wheatgrass).



## B. Comb-like Spike

Unbranched flowering head with spikelets attached directly to the central axis and arranged on one side like a comb; spikes may not be terminal.



## C. Raceme

Unbranched flowering head with spikelets borne on stalks attached to the central axis.



## D. Panicle

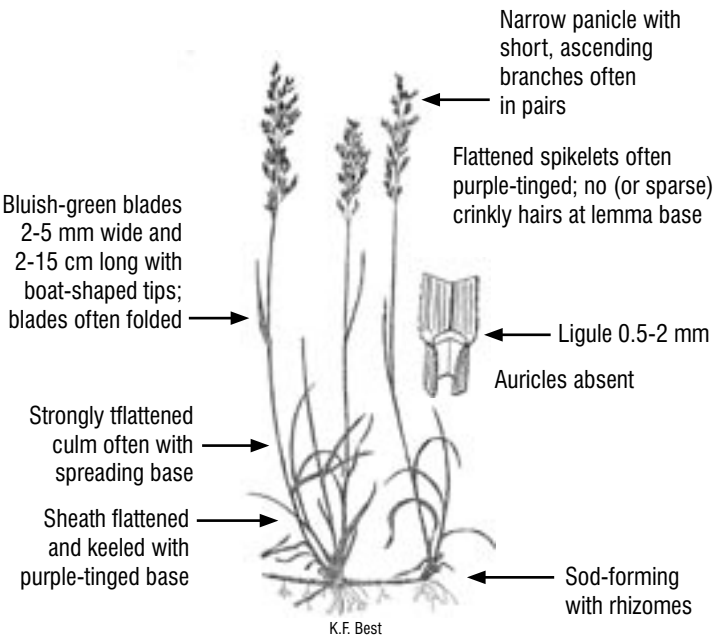
Branched flowering head with spikelets borne on stalks and lower branches longest and flowering first (Examples: bluegrasses, needle grasses, reed grasses).



# Canada Bluegrass

## *Poa compressa*

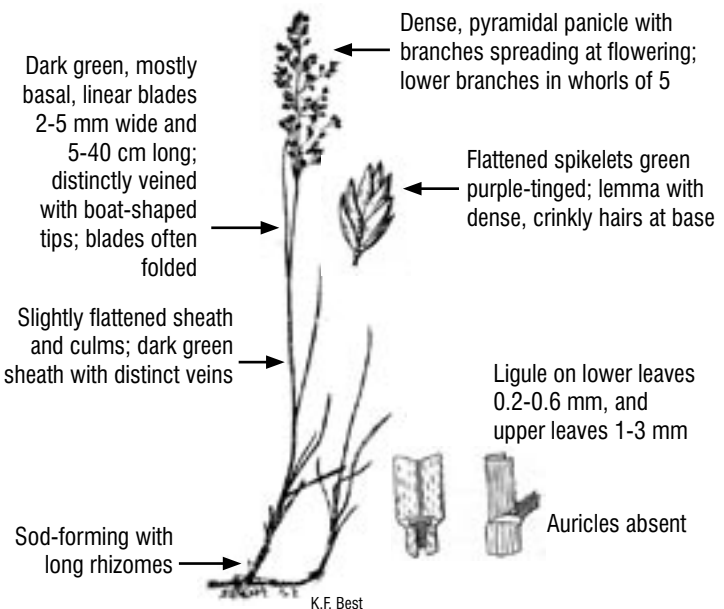
- Culm 15-50 cm, panicle 3-10 cm
- Introduced, invasive in natural areas
- Moist, well-drained, often poor soils



# Kentucky Bluegrass

## *Poa pratensis*

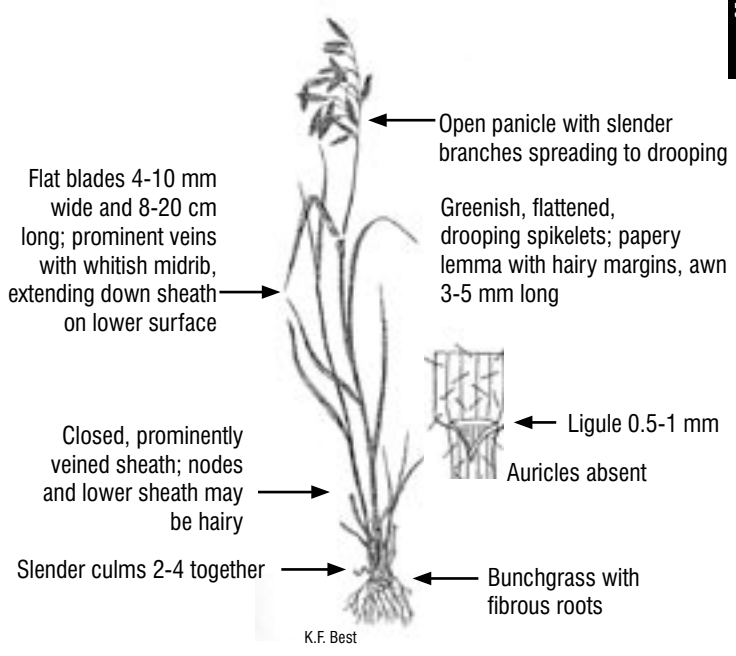
- Culm 30-100 cm, panicle 5-15 cm
- Moist, fertile soils
- Common on moist, overgrazed sites
- Possibly introduced, invasive in natural areas
- Often confused with plains rough fescue (page 14)



# Fringed Brome

## *Bromus ciliatus*

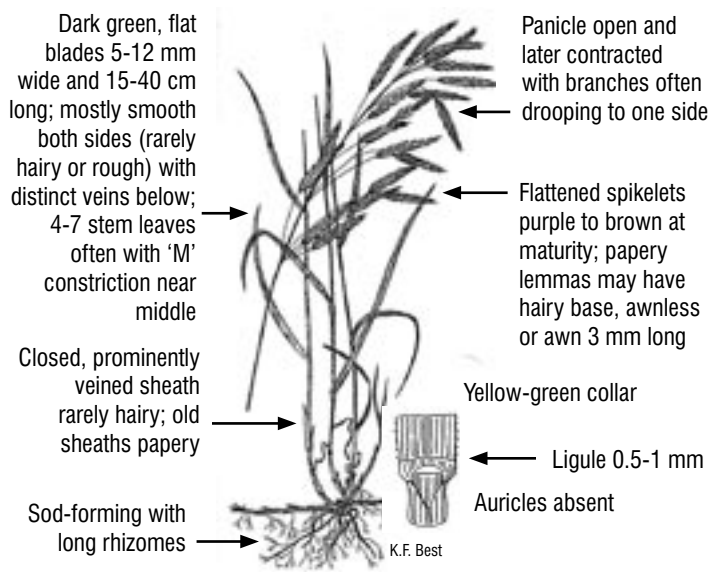
- Culm 60-100 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Open woods and Fescue Prairie



# Smooth Brome

## *Bromus inermis*

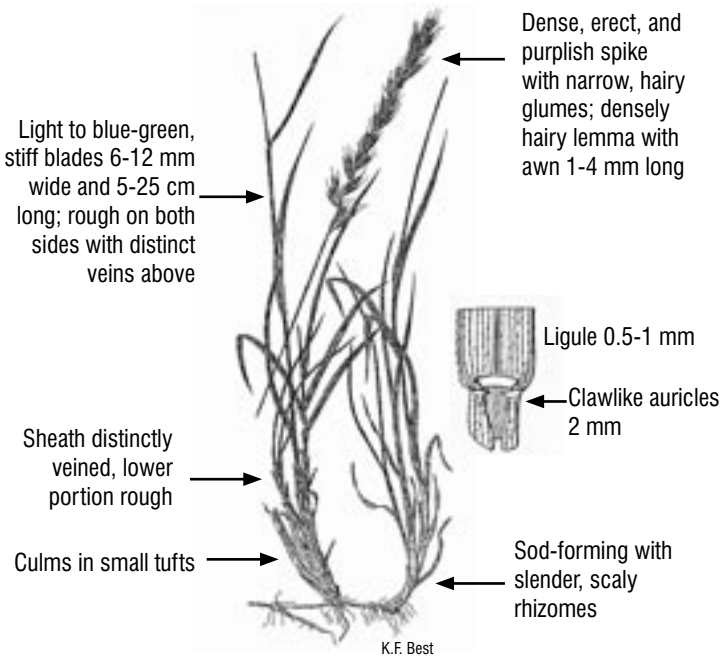
- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 6-20 cm
- Introduced, invasive in natural areas
- Throughout area in moist prairie, open woods, and roadsides



# Hairy Wildrye

## *Elymus innovatus*

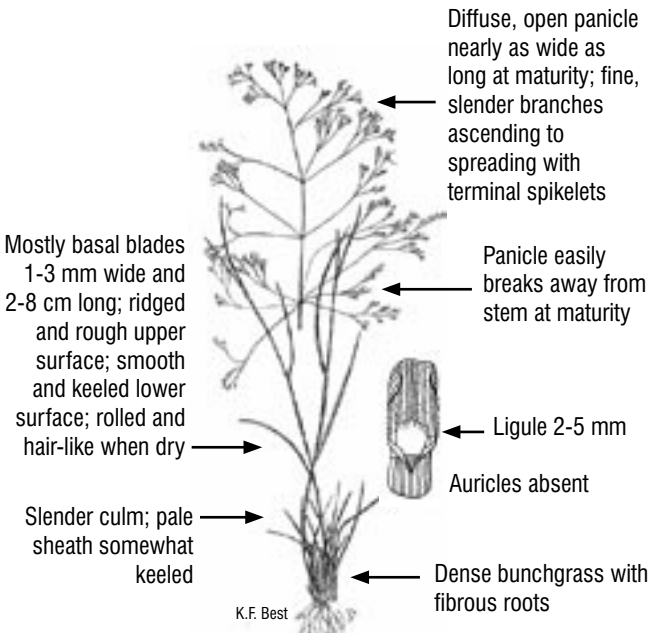
- Culm 50-80 cm, spike 5-12 cm
- Open woods and clearings



# Rough Hair Grass

## *Agrostis scabra*

- Culm 30-70 cm, panicle 15-25 cm
- Meadows, moist prairie, open woods, and waste places



# June Grass

## *Koeleria macrantha*

- Culm 10-50 cm, panicle 3-10 cm
- Common throughout prairies

Bluish-green, mostly basal blades 1-4 mm wide and 5-12 cm long; upper surface uniformly ridged and rough, lower surface keeled; young blades often hairy

Sheath with distinct veins and often hairy



Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide; open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Spikelets flattened with hairs at base; lemmas shiny and often awn-tipped

Yellow-green collar often hairy on margins

Ligule 0.2-1 mm

Auricles absent

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

K.F. Best

# Green Needle Grass

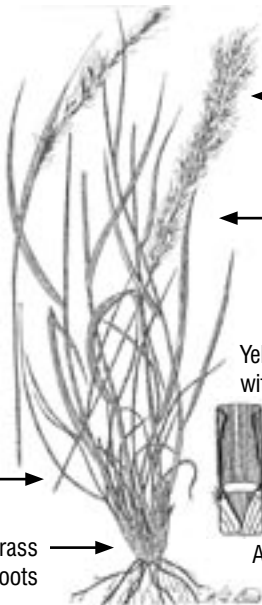
## *Stipa viridula*

- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Moist to dry prairie; fertile soils

Dark green, mostly basal blades 2-5 mm wide and 10-25 cm long; prominently veined and rough on upper surface, prominent midrib below

Smooth sheath with distinct veins; hairy near collar and along margins

Dense bunchgrass with fibrous roots



Greenish, narrow, and compact panicle

Hairy lemmas dark brown when mature; lemma with delicate, twice bent awn 2-3 mm long

Yellowish-green collar with hairy margins

Ligule 0.5-2 mm

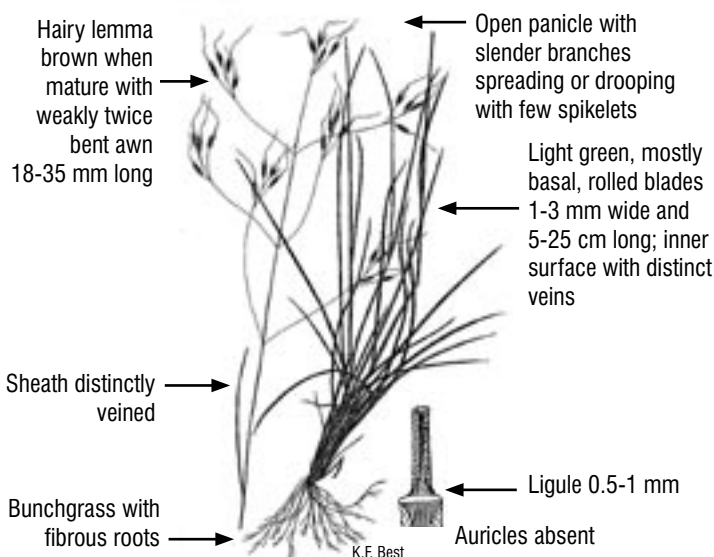
Auricles absent

K.F. Best

# Richardson's Needle Grass

## *Stipa richardsonii*

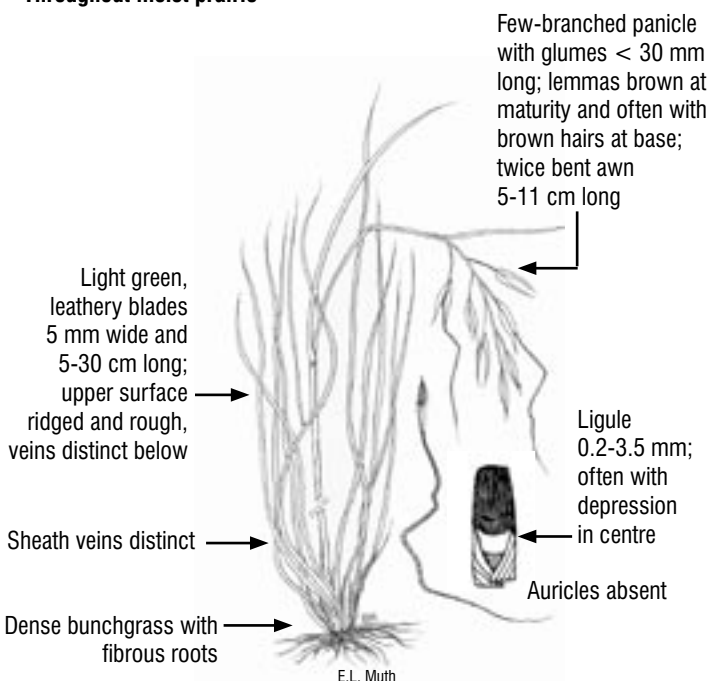
- Culm 50-80 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Moist grasslands and open woods



# Western Porcupine Grass

## *Stipa curtisetata*

- Culm 40-60 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Throughout moist prairie

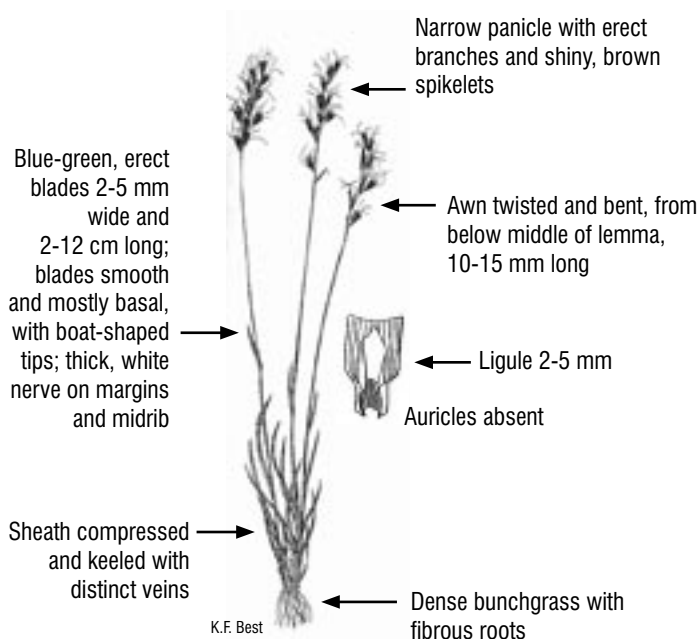




# Hooker's Oat Grass

## *Helictotrichon hookeri*

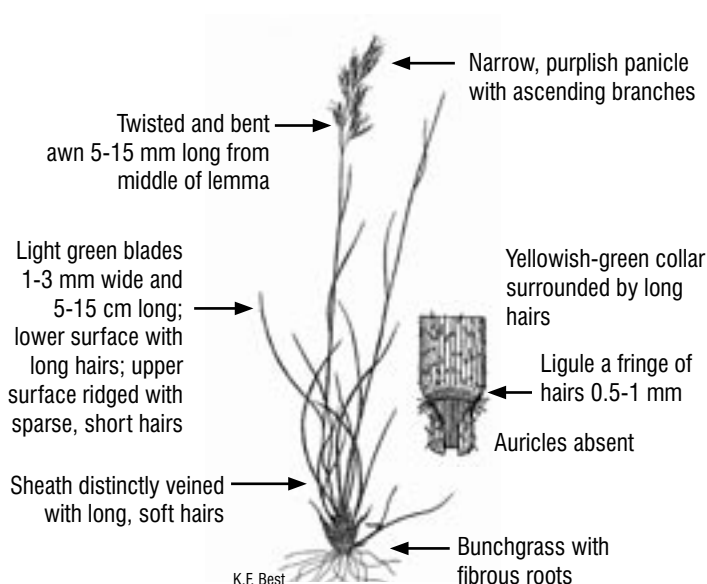
- Culm 20-40 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Moist prairie; seldom abundant



# Timber Oat Grass

## *Danthonia intermedia*

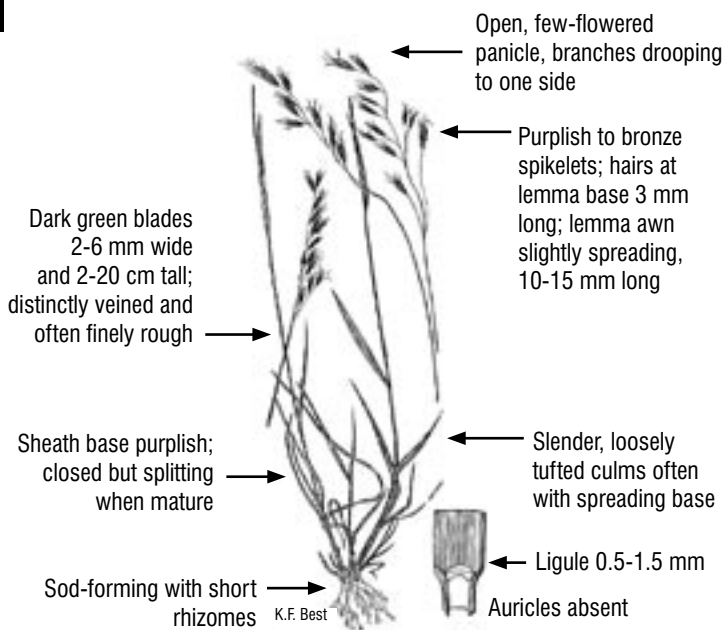
- Culm 10-50 cm, panicle 2-5 cm
- Fescue Prairie and open woods



## Purple Oat Grass

### *Schizachne purpurascens*

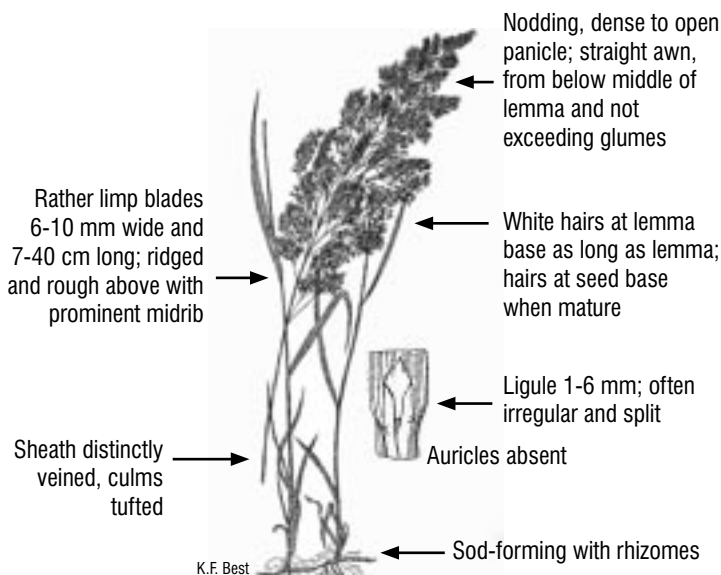
- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 6-15 cm
- Open woods and clearings



## Marsh Reed Grass

### *Calamagrostis canadensis*

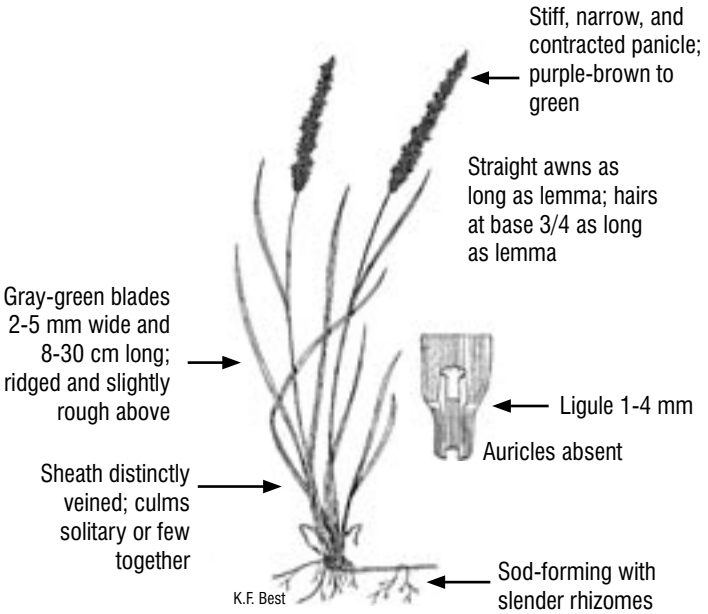
- Culm 60-150 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Marshes, sloughs, lakeshores, and moist woods



# Narrow Reed Grass

## *Calamagrostis neglecta*

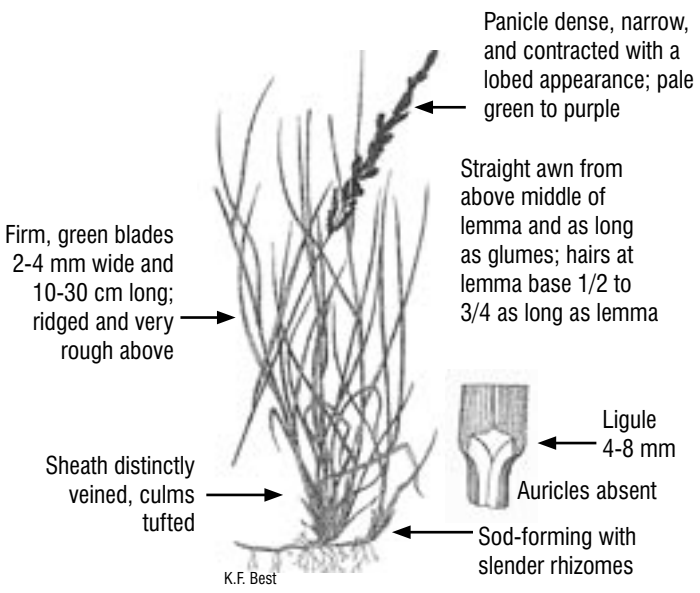
- Culm 30-100 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Moist areas, often with other reed grasses in wet, acid soils
- Can hybridize with northern reed grass



# Northern Reed Grass

## *Calamagrostis inexpansa*

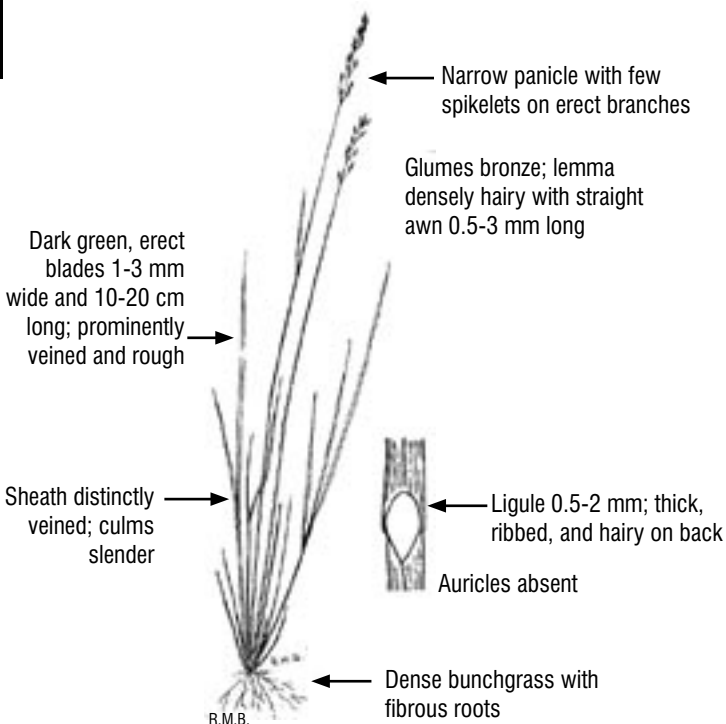
- Culm 40-100 cm, panicle 5-15 cm
- Marshes, sloughs, and wet meadows
- Can hybridize with narrow reed grass



# Northern Rice Grass

## *Oryzopsis pungens*

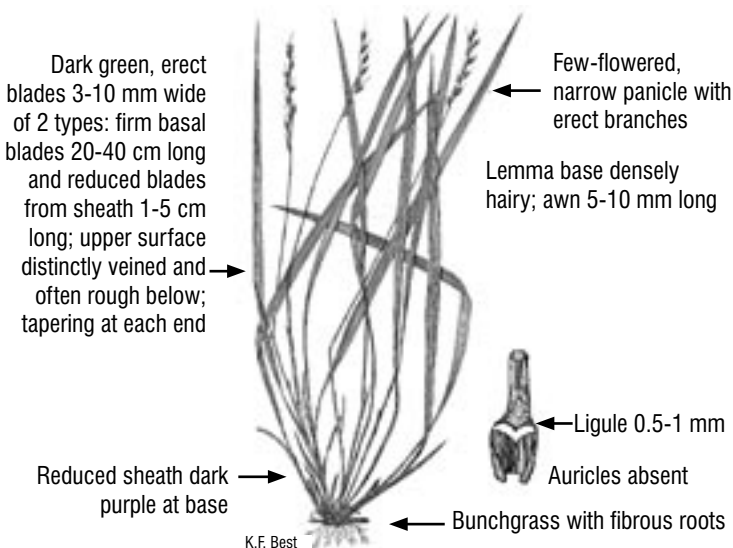
- Culm 20-50 cm, panicle 3-6 cm
- Open woods and clearings; light soils



# White-grained Mountain Rice Grass

## *Oryzopsis asperifolia*

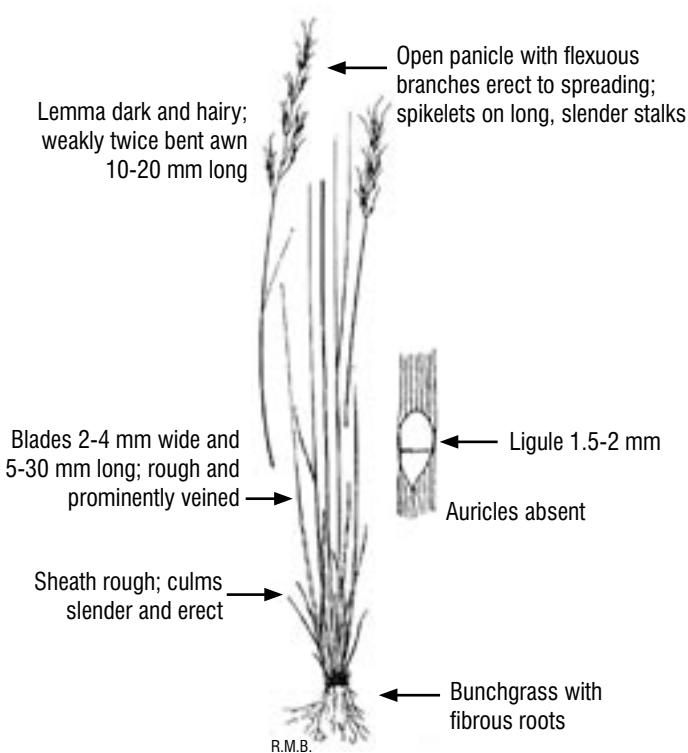
- Culm 20-70 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Wooded areas and slopes
- Two phases: first erect, later spreading



# Canadian Rice Grass

## *Oryzopsis canadensis*

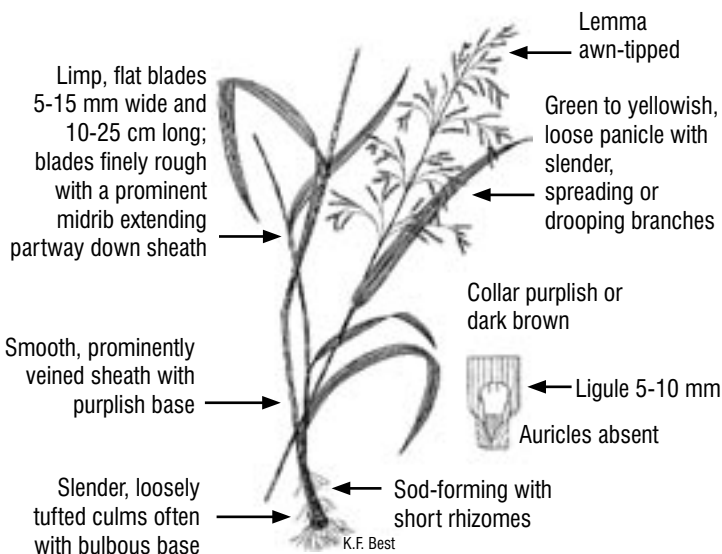
- Culm 30-60 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Open woods and clearings



# Slender Wood Grass

## *Cinna latifolia*

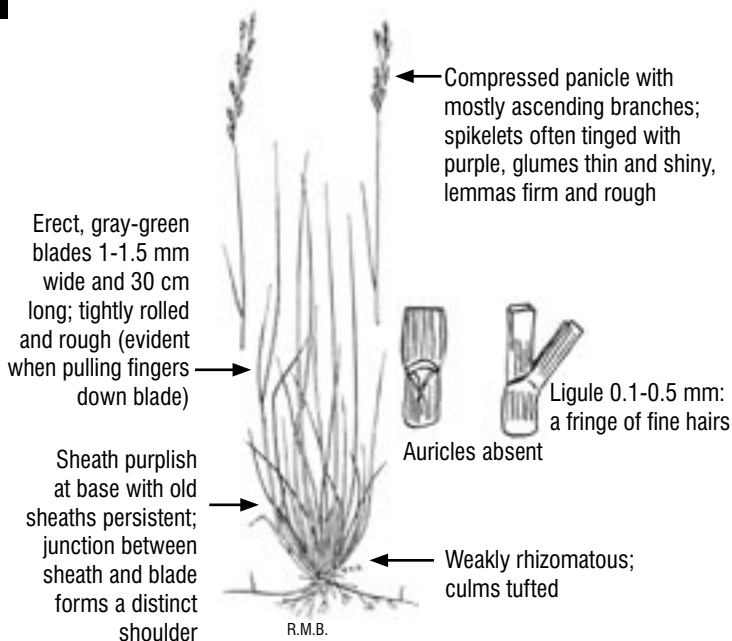
- Culm 60-150 cm, panicle 15-30 cm
- Moist forests



# Plains Rough Fescue

*Festuca hallii*

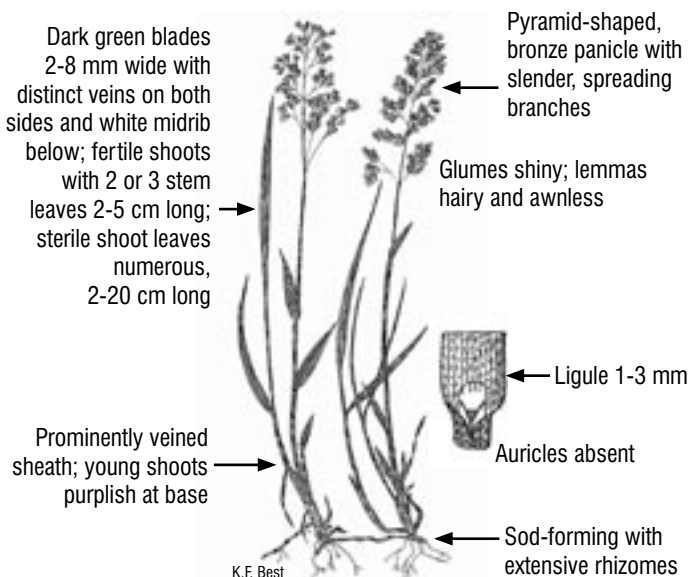
- Culm 20-60 cm, panicle 6-15 cm
- Fertile Dark Brown and Black soils, occasional on north-facing slopes in Brown soils
- Often confused with kentucky bluegrass (page 4)



# Sweet Grass

*Hierochloa odorata*

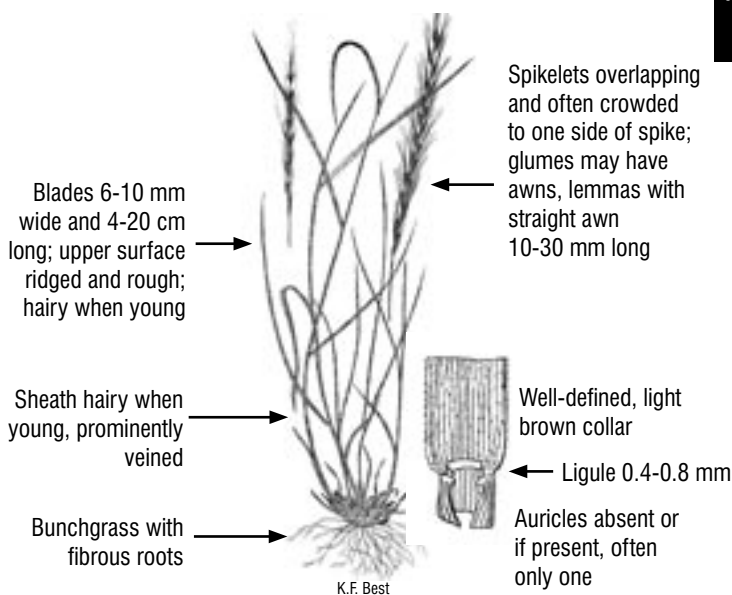
- Culm 30-60 cm, panicle 10-15 cm
- Moist prairie and wet sites
- Sweet smelling



## Awned / Bearded Wheatgrass

### *Agropyron subsecundum*

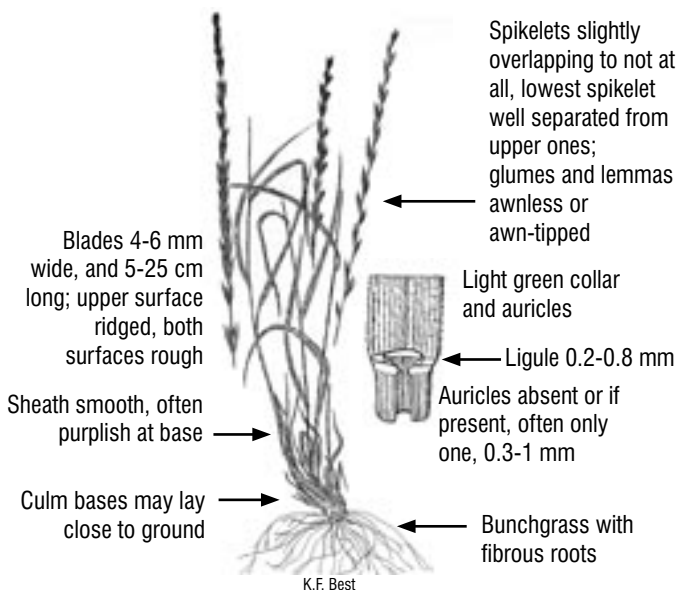
- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 5-20 cm, erect or slightly nodding
- Moist, well-drained, fertile soils



## Slender Wheatgrass

### *Agropyron trachycaulum*

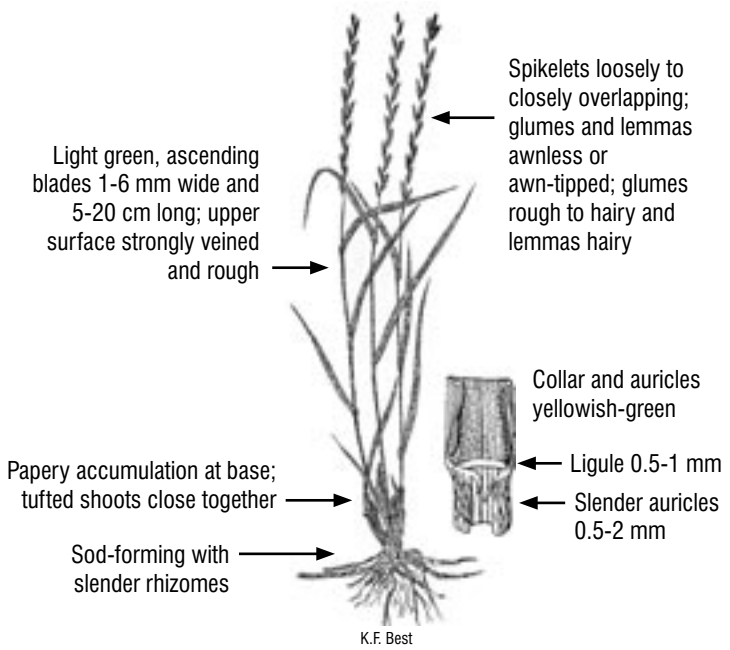
- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 10-25 cm, erect or slightly nodding
- Moist soils, tolerates salinity



# Northern Wheatgrass

## *Agropyron dasystachyum*

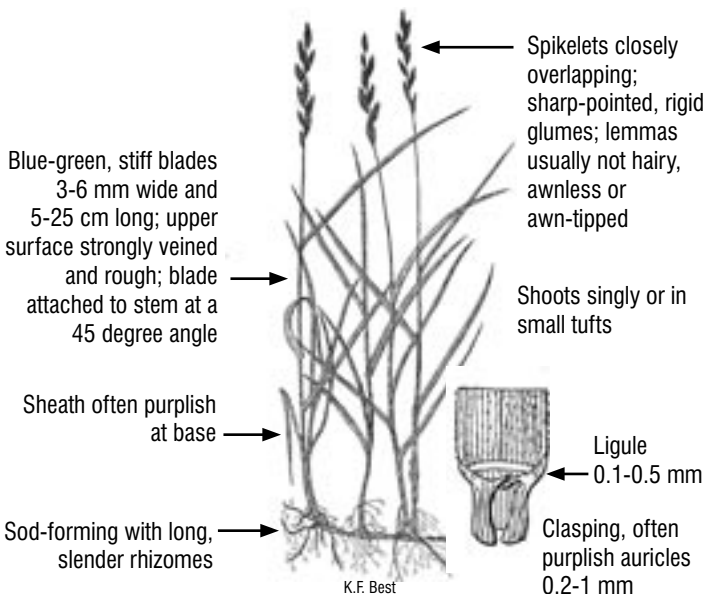
- Culm 40-70 cm, spike 6-15 cm
- Most common wheatgrass on the prairies



# Western Wheatgrass / Bluejoint

## *Agropyron smithii*

- Culm 30-60 cm, spike 7-15 cm
- Most common in moist, saline, and heavy soils

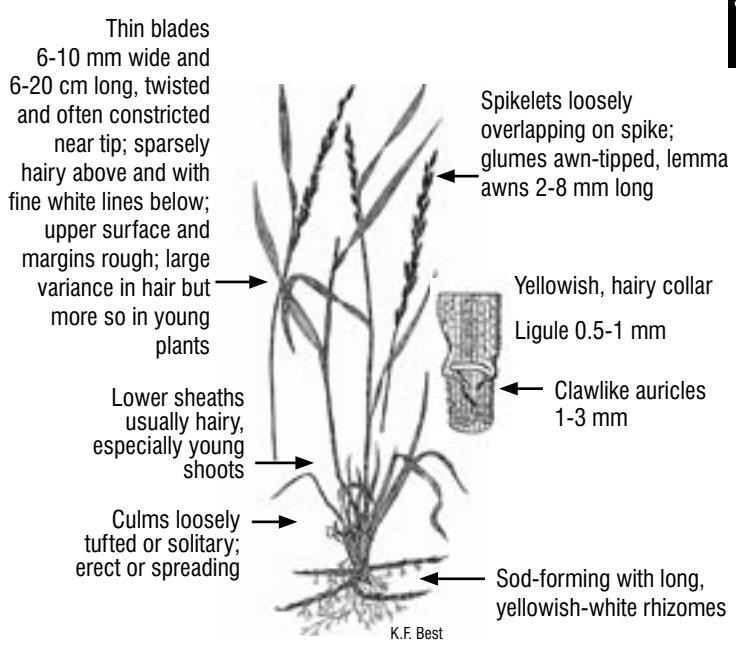




# Quackgrass

## *Agropyron repens*

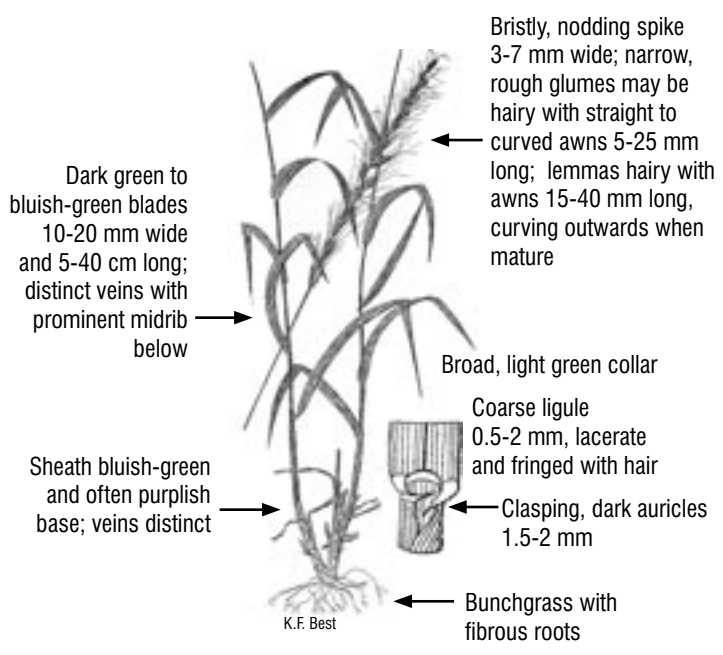
- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 5-15 cm
- Introduced, noxious weed
- Moist, fertile, often disturbed sites



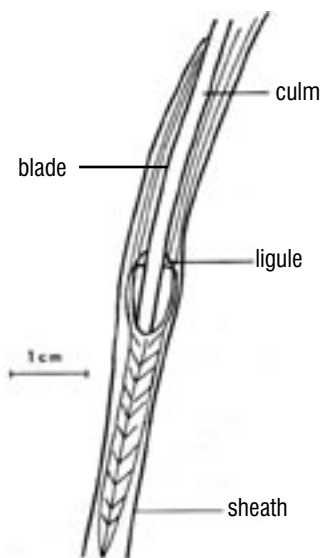
# Canada Wildrye

## *Elymus canadensis*

- Culm 100-150 cm, spike 10-25 cm
- Sandy areas, streambanks, and wooded areas



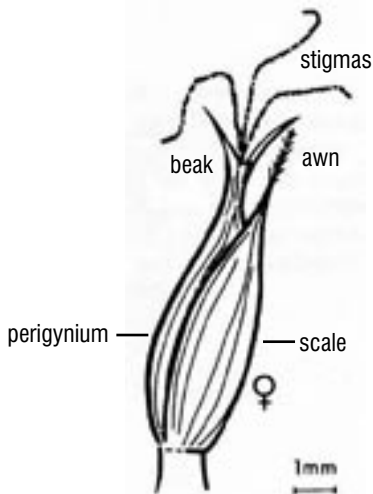
## The Sedge Plant Parts



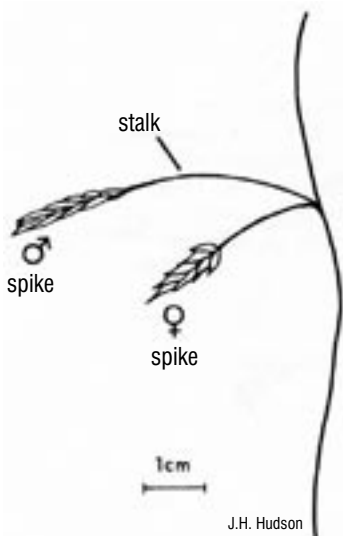
Leaf-sheath and blade.



A solitary spike arrangement with male florets above female. Other possibilities include female above male or a mixture of both sexes.



A female floret.



Separate male and female spikes.

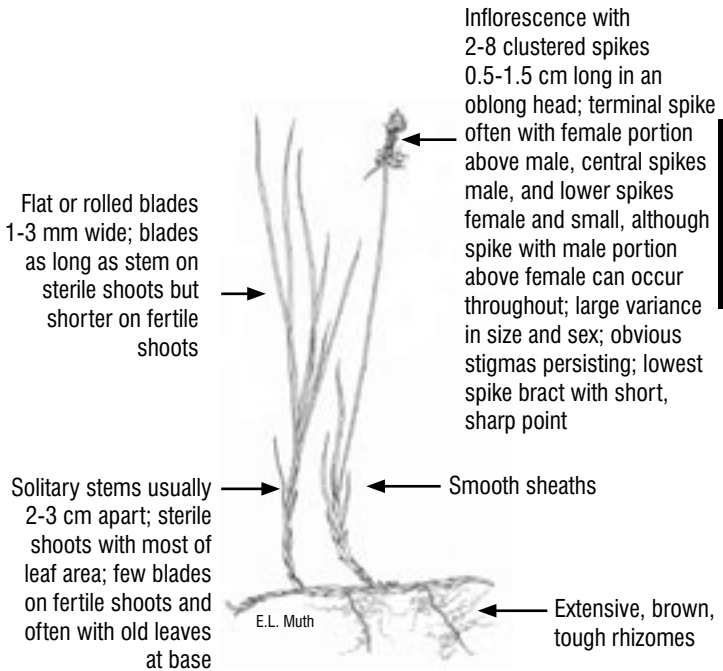
## Distinguishing Characteristics of Sedges

- Stems solid, often triangular, and not jointed (no nodes)
  - Leaves arise from 3 sides of stem
  - Sheath usually closed
    - Indistinct collar
    - Auricles absent
- Flower whorls reduced to bristles and bracts; each true flower subtended by single bract (scale)

# Hay Sedge

## *Carex siccata*

- Culm 20-60 cm, spike 2-4 cm
- Dry, open, sandy sites in Boreal

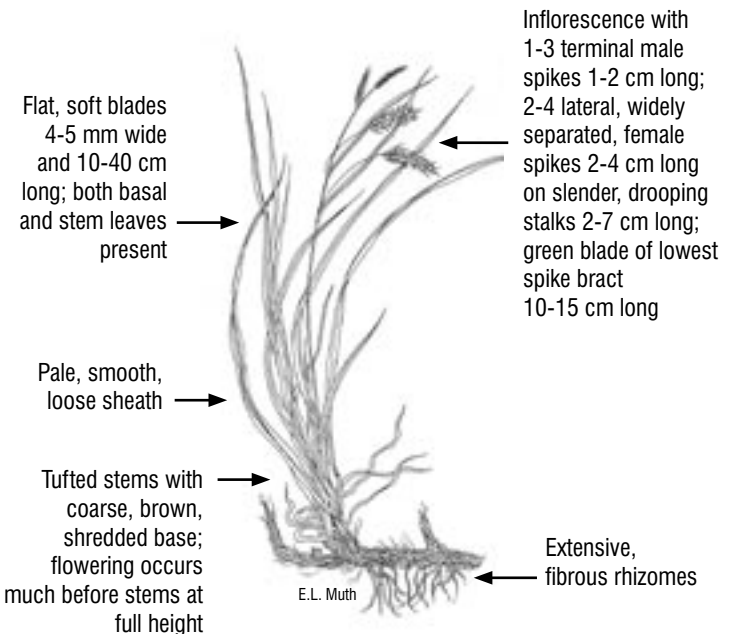


GRASS-LIKES

# Sprengel's Sedge

## *Carex sprengelli*

- Culm 60-100 cm, spike 10-20 cm
- Open woods, moist sites, and meadows

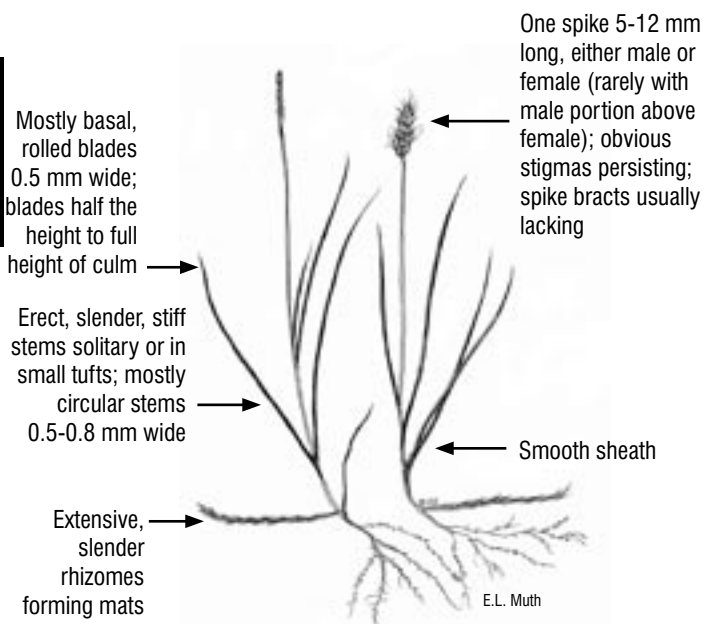


# Northern Bog Sedge

## *Carex gynocrates*

- Culm 5-20 cm, spike 5-12 mm
- Bogs, marshes, and muskeg in Boreal

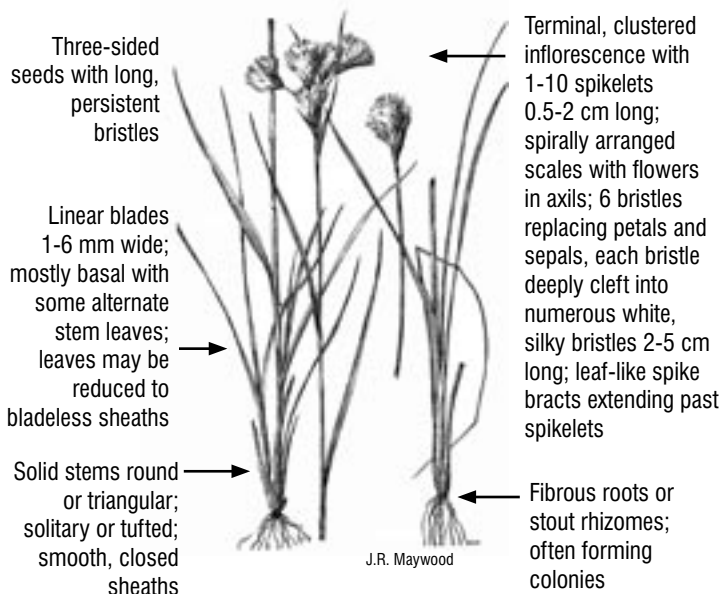
GRASS-LIKES



# Cotton Grass

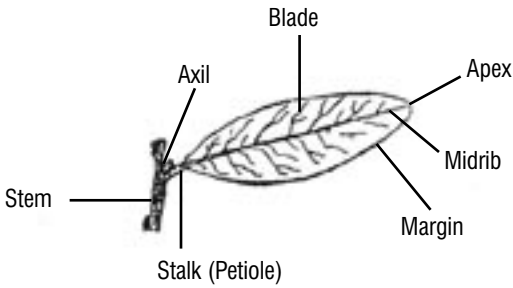
## *Eriophorum species*

- 20-80 cm tall
- Boggy woods, swamps, wet meadows; often in shallow water
- Flowers in summer

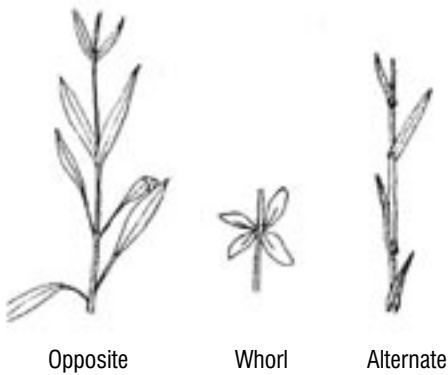


# Leaf Morphology of Forbs and Shrubs

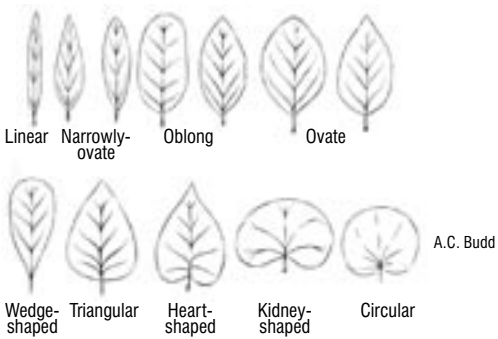
## Leaf Parts



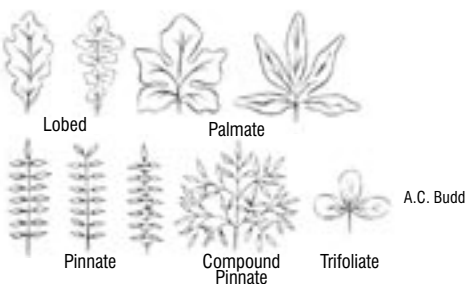
## Leaf Arrangements



## Examples of Simple Leaves



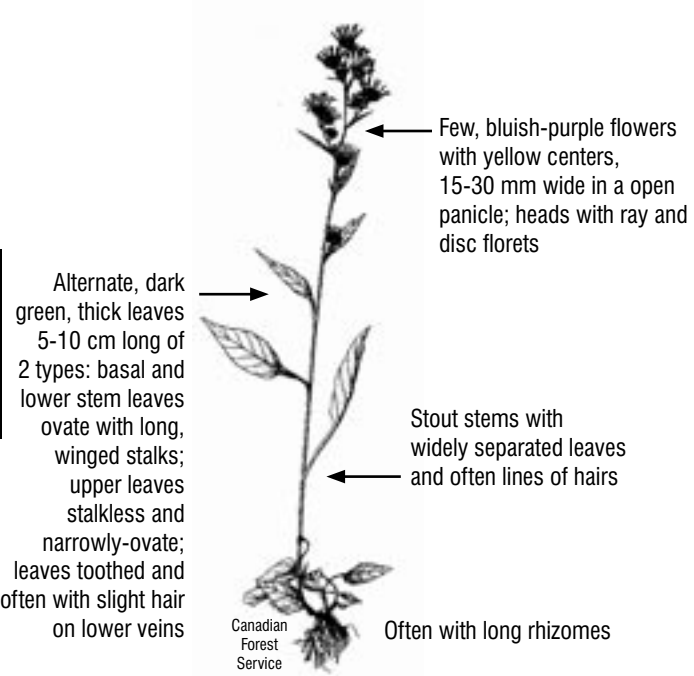
## Examples of Divided Leaves



## Lindley's Aster

### *Aster ciliolatus*

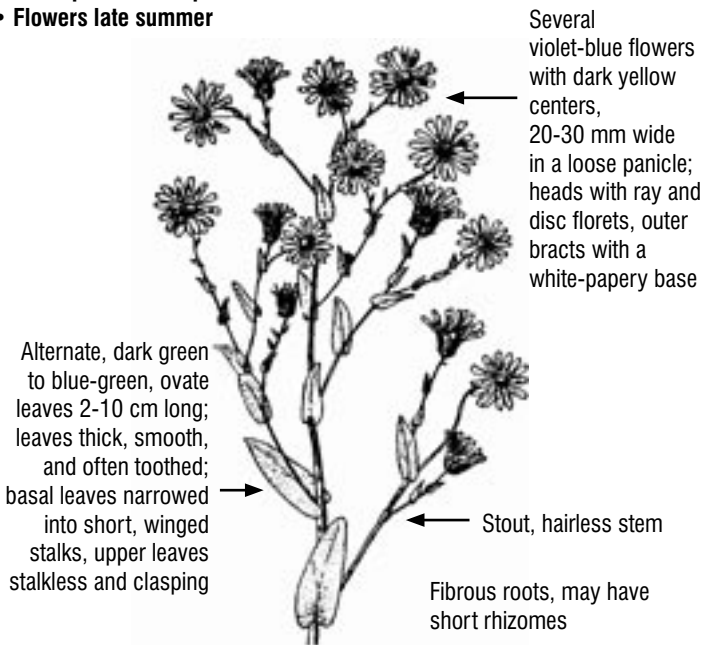
- 30-75 cm tall
- Open woodlands, clearings, and moist prairie
- Flowers late summer



## Smooth Aster

### *Aster laevis*

- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist prairie and open woodland
- Flowers late summer



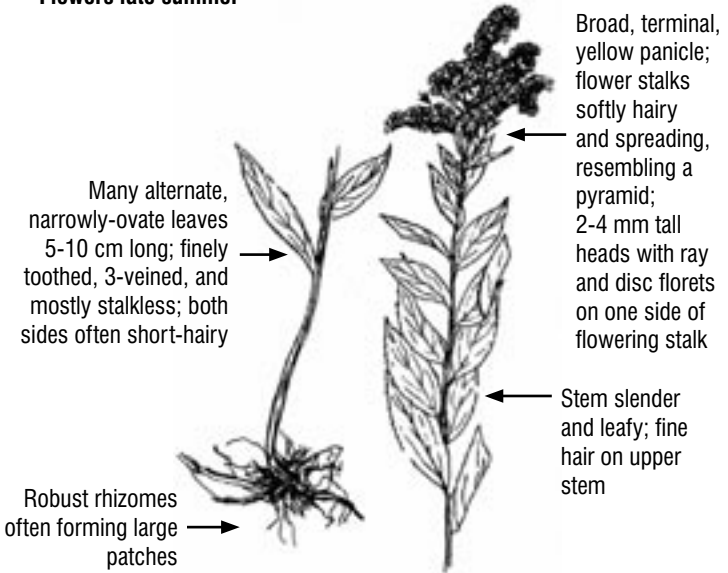
Similar species: Showy Aster (*A. conspicuus*)

- rough, hairy stems, 40-100 cm tall
- rough, hairy, ovate leaves 6-18 cm long with coarse teeth and no stalks
- violet-blue flowers 40 mm wide, glands on bracts and flower stems

# Canada Goldenrod

## *Solidago canadensis*

- 30-80 cm tall
- Moist grasslands, woodlands, and disturbed sites
- Flowers late summer



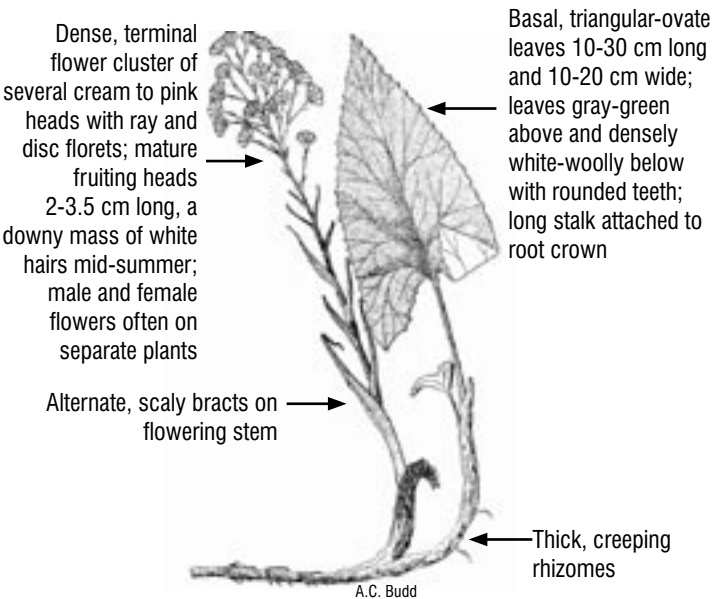
Similar species: Velvety Goldenrod (*S. mollis*)

- stiff, 20-50 cm tall
- fine, velvety hairs on entire plant
- rigid, ovate leaves 2-7 cm long; upper leaves reduced in size and stalkless

# Arrow-leaved Colt's Foot

## *Petasites sagittatus*

- 20-50 cm tall
- Wet meadows, sloughs, bogs, and woodlands
- Flowers in spring before leaves appear



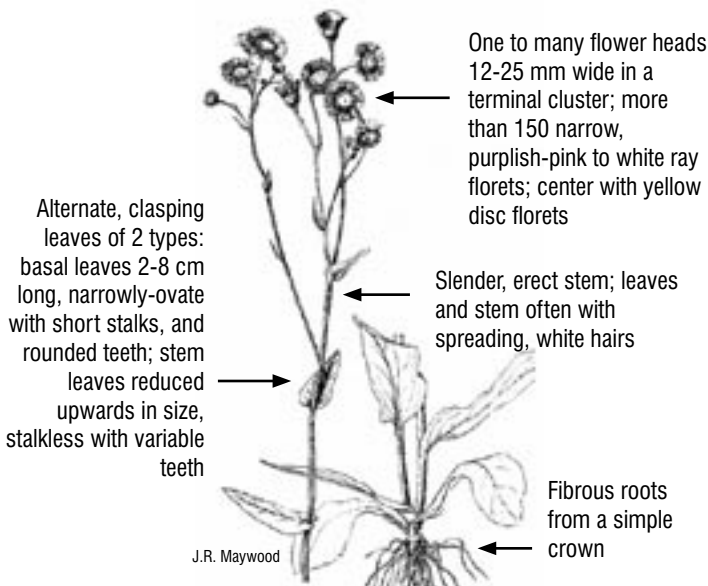
Similar species: Palmate-leaved Colt's Foot (*P. palmatus*)

- circular leaves with 5-7 deeply cleft, sharply-toothed lobes
- mature heads 1-2 cm long

# Philadelphia Fleabane

## *Erigeron philadelphicus*

- 30-60 cm tall
- Moist, open woods and disturbed areas
- Flowers in summer
- Biennial or short-lived perennial



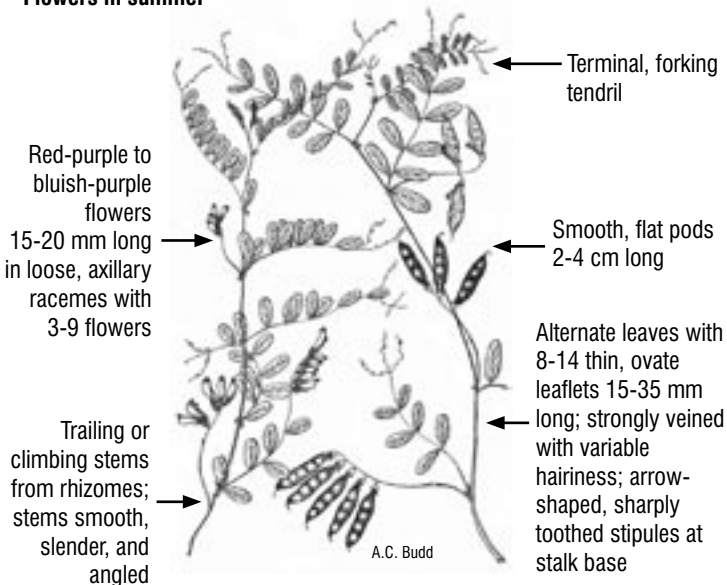
Similar species: Smooth Fleabane (*E. glabellus*)

- 15-40 cm tall, base often spreading
- leaves not clasping
- 1-10 heads 10-20 mm wide with purple rays

# American Vetch

## *Vicia americana*

- 40-80 cm long
- Moist prairie, open woods, and coulees
- Flowers in summer



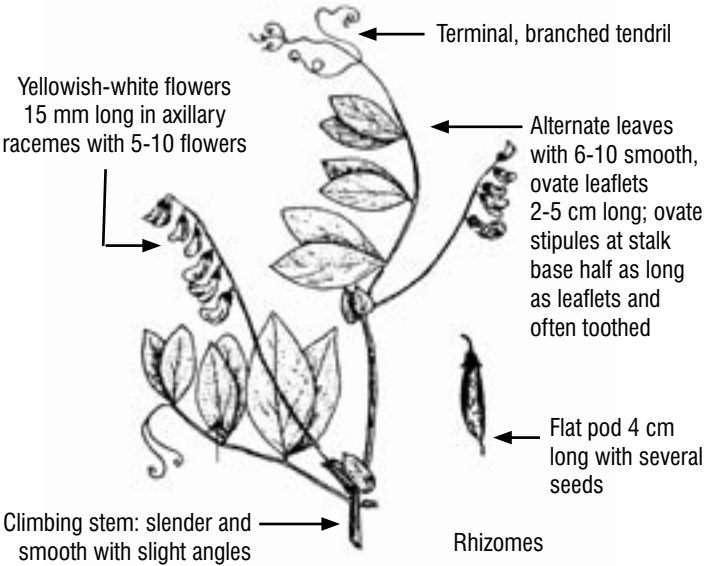
Plants in open grassland often have narrower leaflets and may be a separate species: *Vicia sparsifolia*



# Cream-coloured Vetchling

## *Lathyrus ochroleucus*

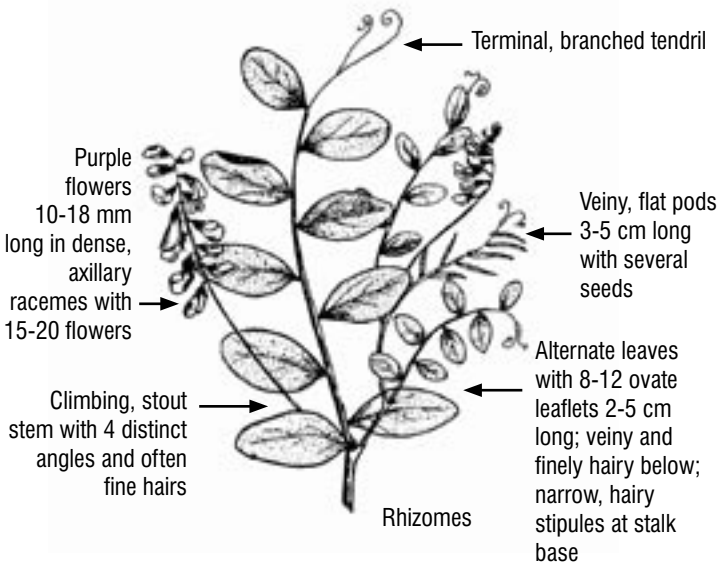
- 30-100 cm long
- Moist, open woods, clearings, and thickets
- Flowers late spring and summer



# Wild Peavine

## *Lathyrus venosus*

- 50-100 cm long
- Moist woods, clearings, and thickets
- Flowers late spring and summer



## Wild Licorice

### *Glycyrrhiza lepidota*

- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist prairie, coulees, sloughs, riverbanks, and disturbed sites
- Flowers in summer

Bur-like, reddish-brown pods 10-15 mm long with 3-5 seeds and covered with hooked bristles

Several yellowish-white flowers 10-15 mm long in dense, erect racemes 2-6 cm long from leaf axils

Alternate leaves with 11-19 narrowly-ovate leaflets 20-35 mm long; dotted with glands and pointed at both ends; stipules at stalk base falling early

Thick, woody rhizomes with a sweet, licorice taste

Coarse, branching stems

K.F. Best

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## American Hedysarum

### *Hedysarum alpinum var. americanum*

- 15-80 cm tall
- Moist, open woods, semi-open prairie, and gravelly banks
- Flowers in summer

Several reflexed, pink to violet flowers 10-15 mm long in extended, narrow racemes from leaf axils

Alternate leaves with 11-21 narrowly-ovate leaflets 10-30 mm long; veins prominent and slight hair below

Flat pods with 3-5 segments 3.5-6 mm wide with variable hairiness

Several reddish-brown stems with tough, woody bases and slight hair

Woody taproot and thick crown

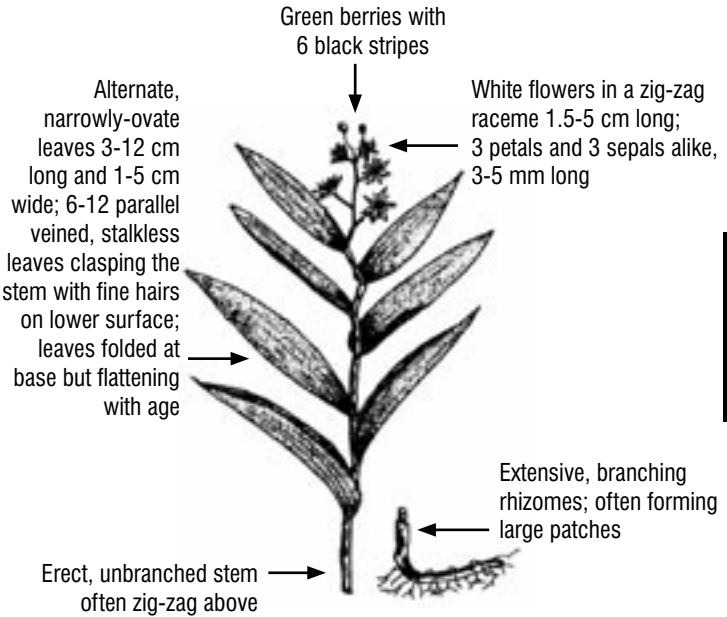
Brown, membranous stipules often united

A.C. Budd

# Star-flowered Solomon's Seal

## *Smilacina stellata*

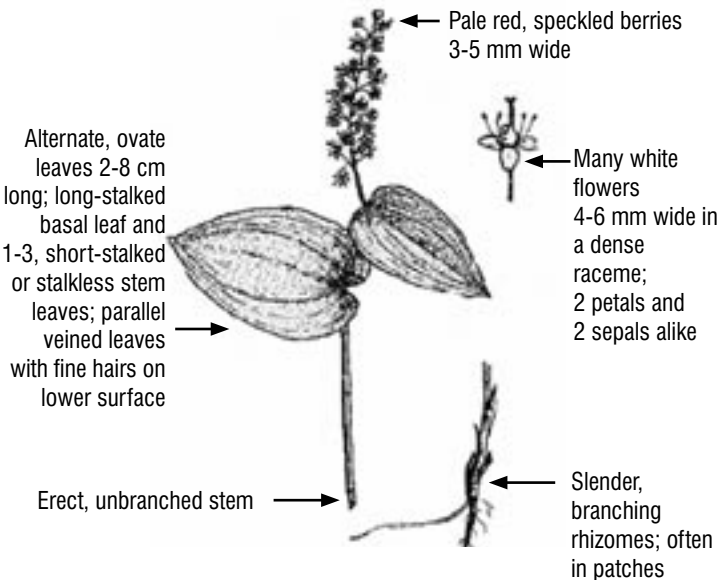
- 15-50 cm tall
- Open woods, moist grasslands, and shores of marshes
- Flowers in spring



# Two-leaved Solomon's Seal

## *Maianthemum canadense*

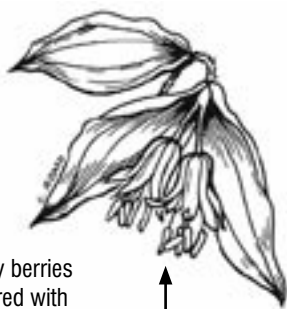
- 5-15 cm tall
- Rich soil in moist woods
- Flowers in spring



# Fairybells

## *Disporum trachycarpum*

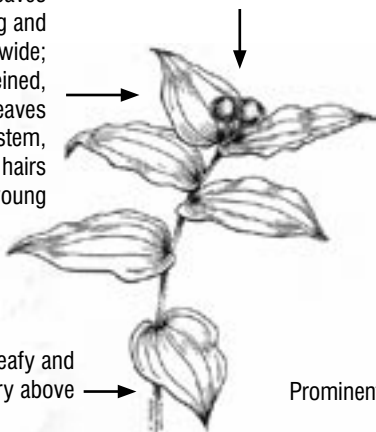
- 30-60 cm tall
- Moist woods, ravines, and coulees
- Flowers in spring



One to three drooping, creamy-white flowers 8-14 mm long at branch ends; 3 sepals and 3 petals alike

Orange to red, velvety berries 8-10 mm wide covered with minute wart-like bumps

Alternate, bright green, ovate leaves 3-8 cm long and 2-5 cm wide; parallel veined, stalkless leaves clasping the stem, with fine hairs when young



Forked stem, leafy and finely hairy above

Prominent rhizomes

C. Romo

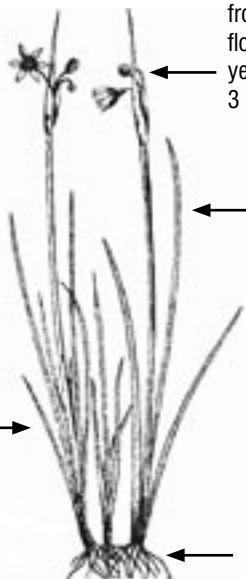
# Blue-eyed Grass

## *Sisyrinchium montanum*

- 10-30 cm tall
- Moist, open areas
- Flowers late spring, early summer

Small cluster of bright blue flowers 10-20 mm wide from a pair of erect bracts; flowers with sharp tips and yellow centers, 3 petals and 3 sepals alike

Round capsule 3-6 mm long in 3 sections with black seeds



Stiff, flattened stem 1-4 mm wide with narrowly-winged edges

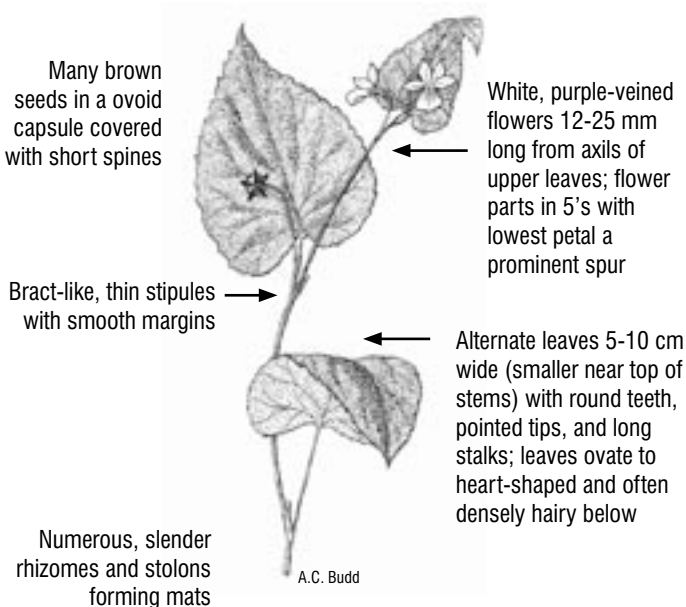
Grass-like, linear, and bright green leaves 1-3.5 mm wide from each side of plant base

Tufted with fibrous roots and short rhizomes; often forming large colonies

## Western Canada Violet

### *Viola rugulosa*

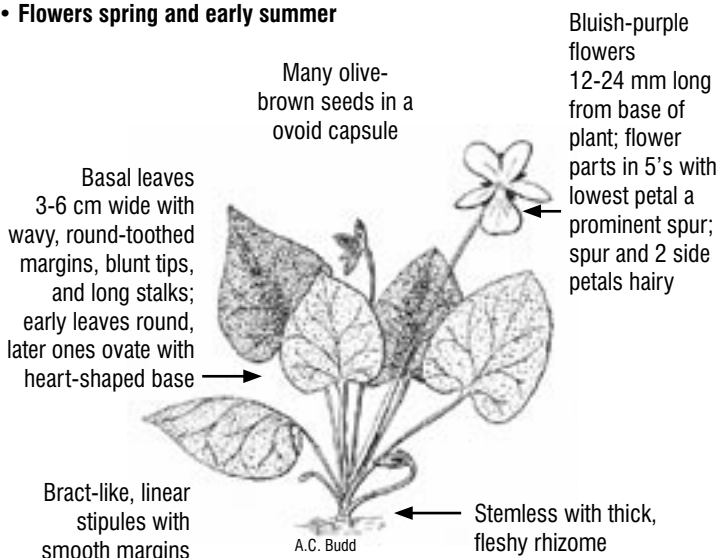
- 20-60 cm tall
- Shady woodlands and moist meadows
- Flowers late spring and summer



## Northern Bog Violet

### *Viola cucullata*

- 5-10 cm tall
- Moist woods, streambanks, and bogs
- Flowers spring and early summer



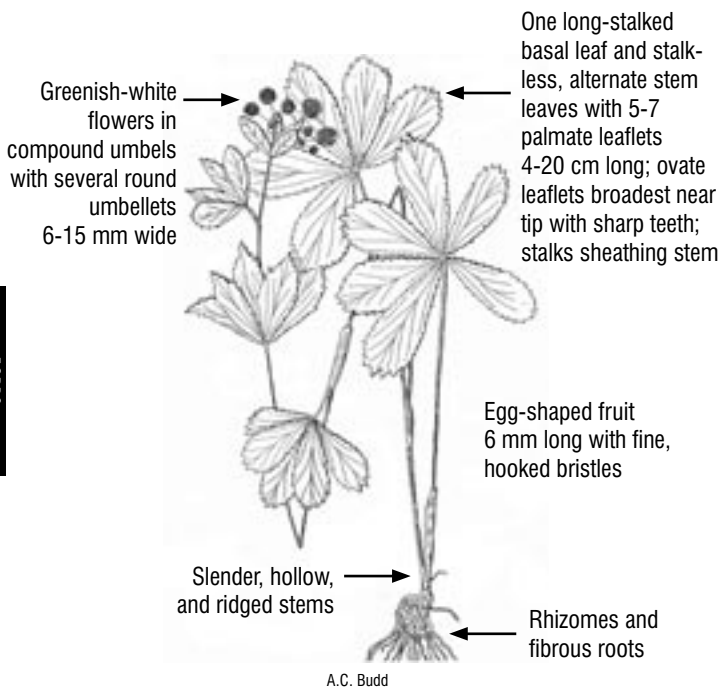
Similar species: Early Blue Violet (*V. adunca*)

- 5-30 cm tall, moist prairie and woods
- ovate stem leaves 1-2 cm wide; bract-like, toothed stipules
- flowers 5-15 mm long, side petals bearded

# Snakeroot

## *Sanicula marilandica*

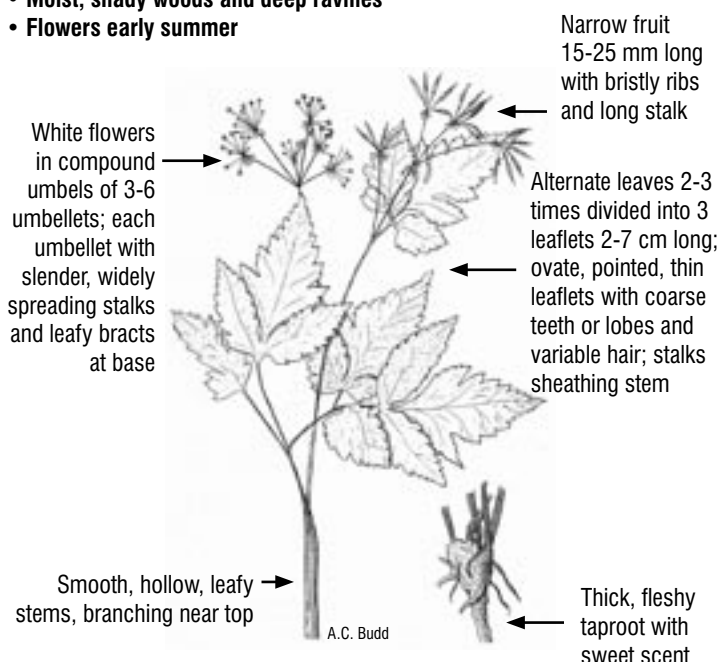
- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist woods and streambanks
- Flowers early summer



# Smooth Sweet Cicely

## *Osmorhiza aristata*

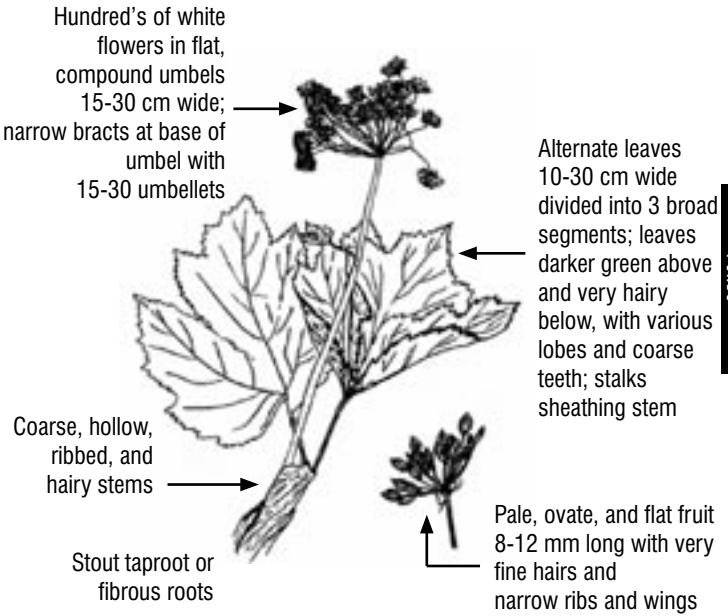
- 30-90 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods and deep ravines
- Flowers early summer



# Cow Parsnip

## *Heracleum lanatum*

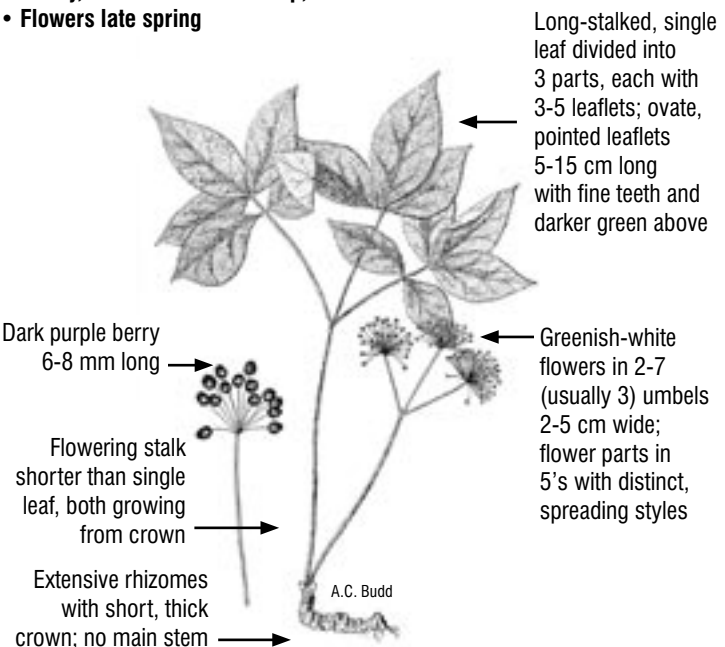
- 1-2.5 m tall
- Moist woods, clearings, and streambanks
- Flowers in summer
- Unpleasant odor



# Wild Sarsaparilla

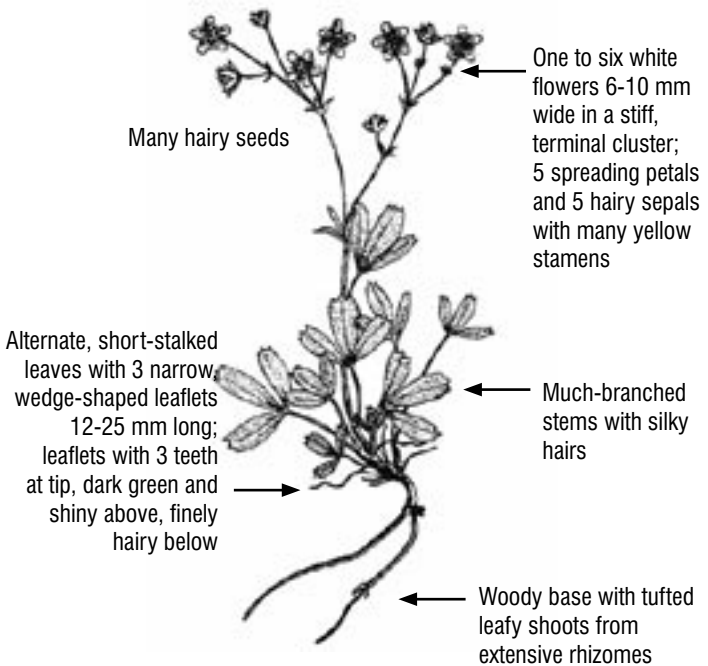
## *Aralia nudicaulis*

- 15-60 cm tall
- Shady, moist woods and deep, wooded ravines
- Flowers late spring



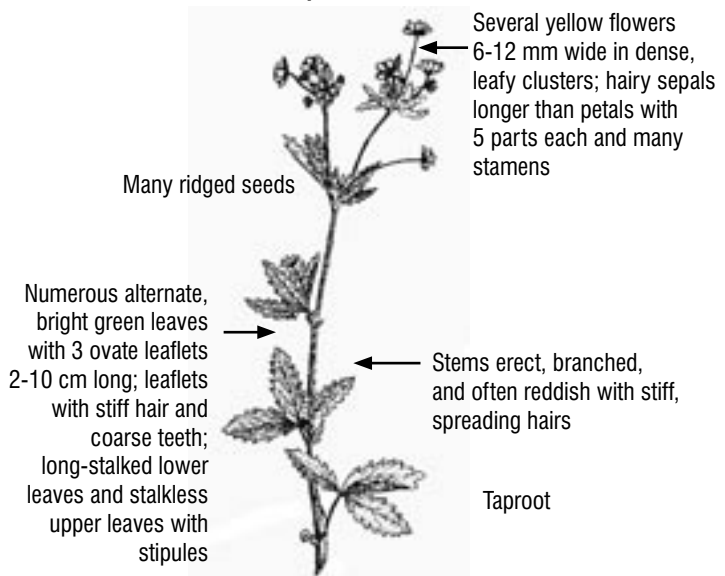
## Three-toothed Cinquefoil *Potentilla tridentata*

- 10-20 cm tall
- Open, sandy woods
- Flowers in summer



## Rough Cinquefoil *Potentilla norvegica*

- 15-60 cm tall
- Moist meadows, disturbed sites, and roadsides
- Flowers in summer
- Annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial



**Similar species:** Graceful Cinquefoil (*P. gracilis*)

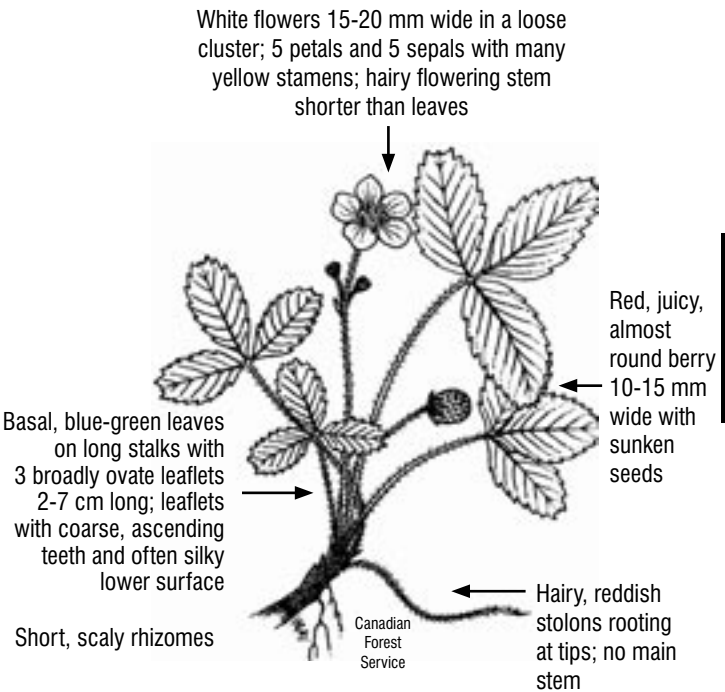
- 30-60 cm tall, perennial, moist prairie and open woods
- basal leaves woolly hairy with long stalks and 5-7 leaflets, few stem leaves
- flowers 15-20 mm wide, petals longer than sepals



# Wild Strawberry

## *Fragaria virginiana*

- 5-15 cm long
- Low areas in prairie, open woods, and moist sites
- Flowers spring to early summer

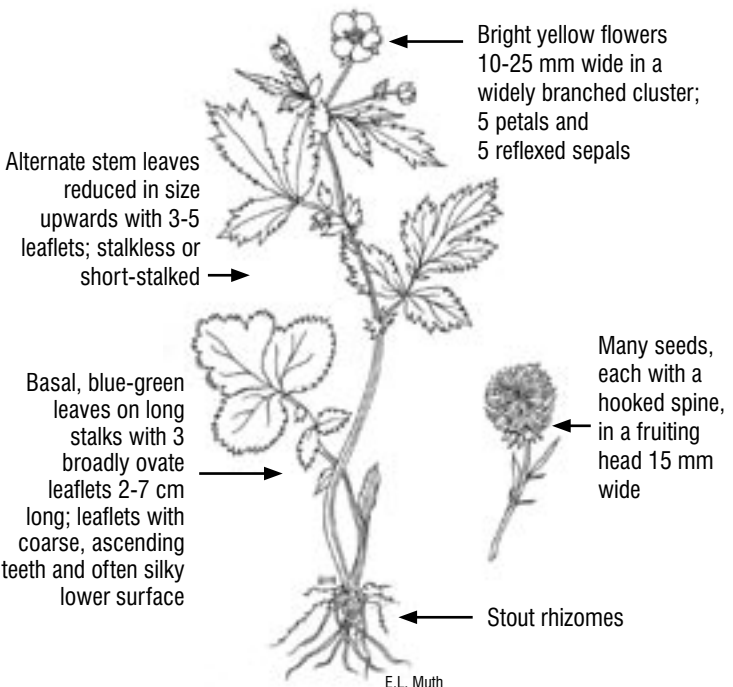


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# Yellow Avens

## *Geum aleppicum*

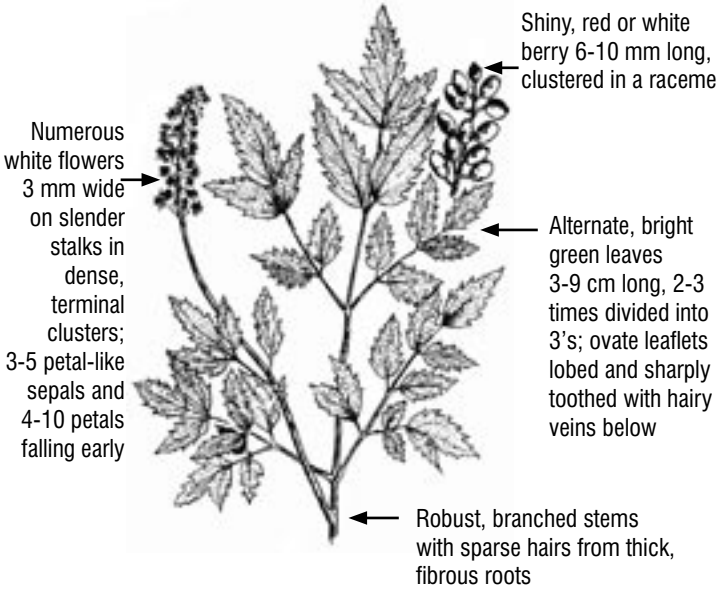
- 40-120 cm long
- Moist sites, meadows, and open woods
- Flowers early summer



# Baneberry

## *Actaea rubra*

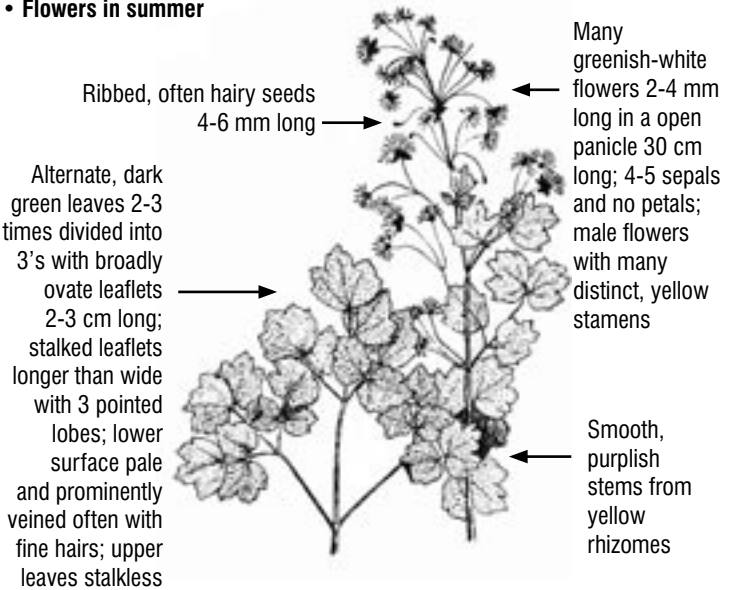
- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods and ravines
- Flowers early summer
- Poisonous (especially berries)



# Tall Meadow Rue

## *Thalictrum dasycarpum*

- 50-150 cm tall
- Moist woods and meadows
- Flowers in summer



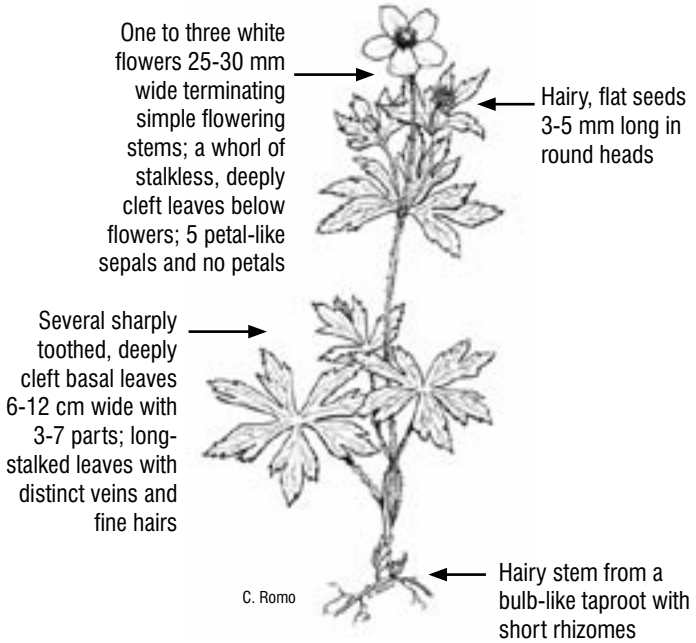
Similar species: Veiny Meadow Rue (*T. venulosum*)

- round, bluish-green leaflets 1-2 cm long, strongly veined with 3 toothed lobes
- green stems with a dense panicle

# Canada Anemone

## *Anemone canadensis*

- 20-60 cm tall
- Open woods, moist meadows and prairies
- Flowers in summer

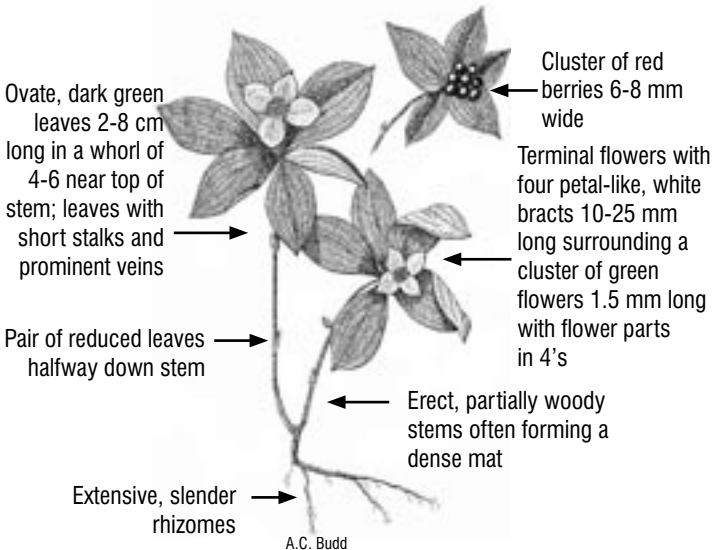


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# Bunchberry

## *Cornus canadensis*

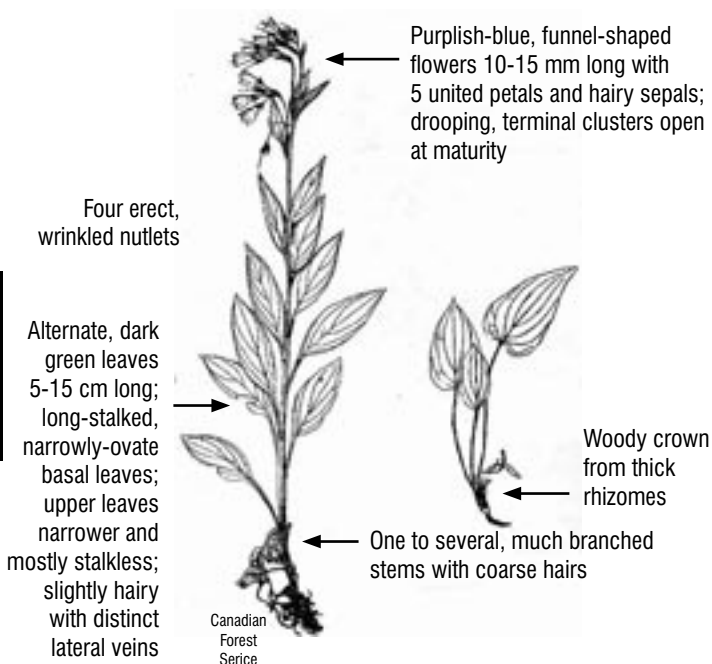
- 5-15 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods
- Flowers early summer
- Evergreen leaves



# Tall Lungwort / Bluebell

## *Mertensia paniculata*

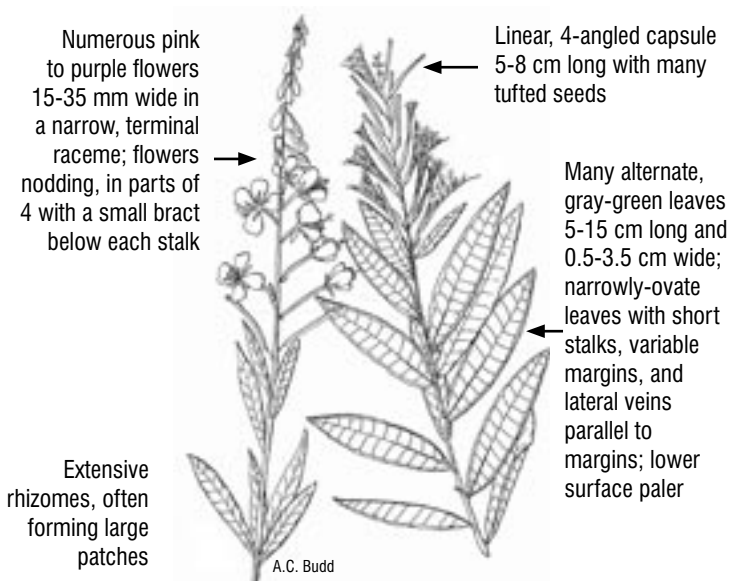
- 30-70 cm tall
- Moist woods and shady streambanks
- Flowers early summer



# Fireweed

## *Epilobium angustifolium*

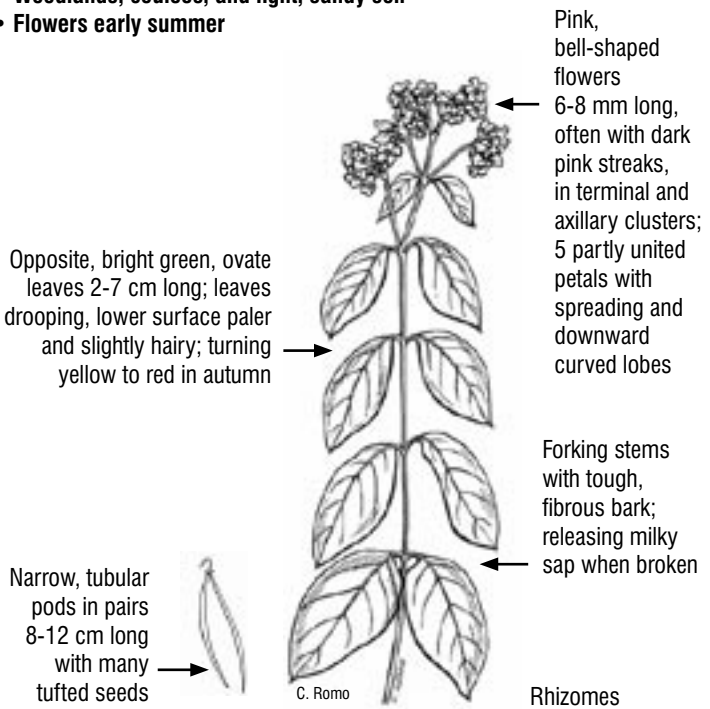
- 30-300 cm tall
- Open woods, disturbed sites, and recently burnt areas
- Flowers in summer



# Spreading Dogbane

## *Apocynum androsaemifolium*

- 30-150 cm tall
- Woodlands, coulees, and light, sandy soil
- Flowers early summer

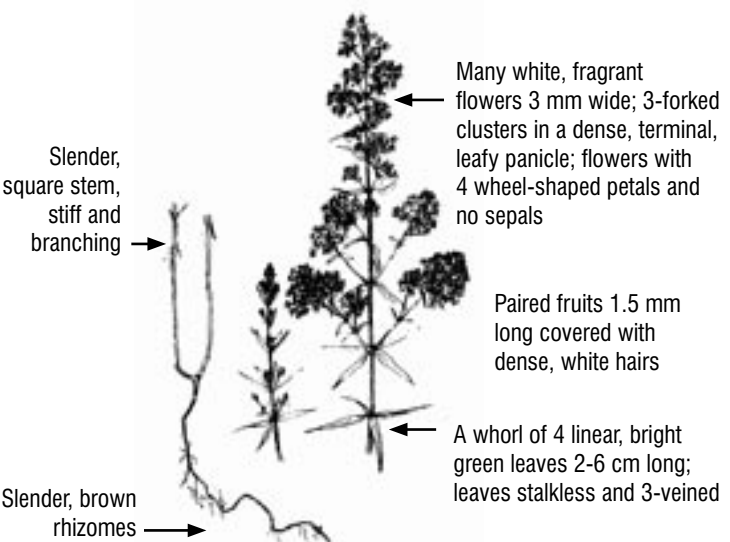


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# Northern Bedstraw

## *Galium boreale*

- 20-50 cm tall
- Moist prairie, roadsides, and open woods
- Flowers in summer



Similar species: Sweet-scented Bedstraw (*G. triflorum*)

- trailing, slender stem, 30-100 cm long
- whorl of 6 leaves, bristly tip, 1-veined
- long-stalked flowers from leaf axils
- fruit pairs with hooked bristles

# SHRUBS

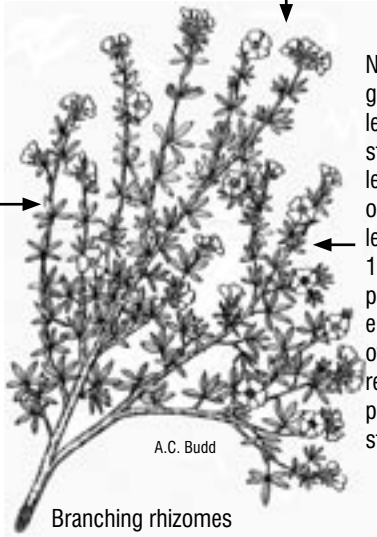
## **Shrubby Cinquefoil**

*Potentilla fruticosa*

- 15-150 cm tall
- Moist Fescue Prairie and open woods
- Flowers in summer

Deep yellow flowers 15-25 mm wide, solitary or 3-7-clustered; 5 petals and 5 hairy sepals with many stamens; seeds with dense, coarse hair

Stems much-branched; older branches red-brown or gray with shredding outer bark; young branches with silky hair



Numerous, gray-green, alternate leaves with short stalks and 5-7 leaflets; narrowly-ovate, silky hairy leaflets 12-25 mm long, pointed at both ends and margins often rolled; reddish-brown, papery stipules at stalk base

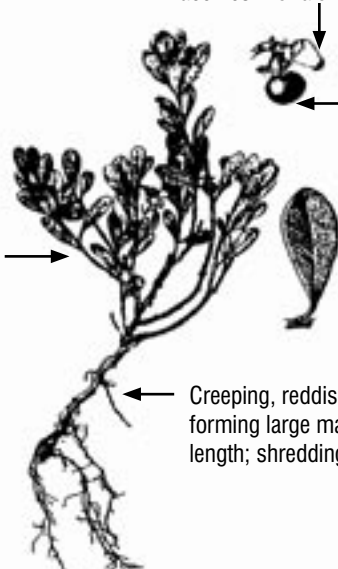
## **Bearberry**

*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

- 50-100 cm long
- Sandy and eroded sites in moist to dry woods
- Flowers spring and early summer
- Evergreen

Pinkish-white, urn-shaped flowers 4-6 mm long; 3-10 drooping flowers in dense, terminal racemes with a thick, firm bract

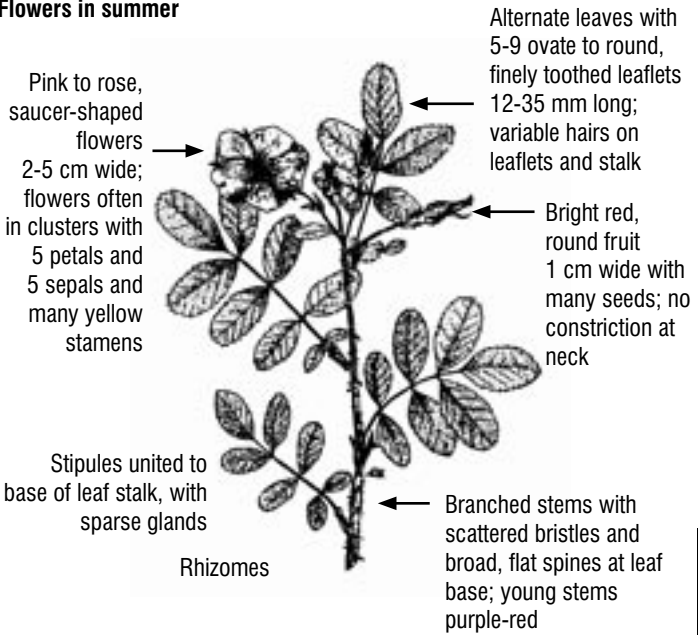
Alternate, dark green, shiny, leathery leaves 1-3 cm long; ovate leaves wider near the rounded tip and on short stalks; older leaves reddish-brown



# Wood's Rose

## *Rosa woodsii*

- 50-200 cm tall
- Thickets, open woods, sand hills, and prairie coulees
- Flowers in summer



Similar species: Prickly Rose (*R. acicularis*)

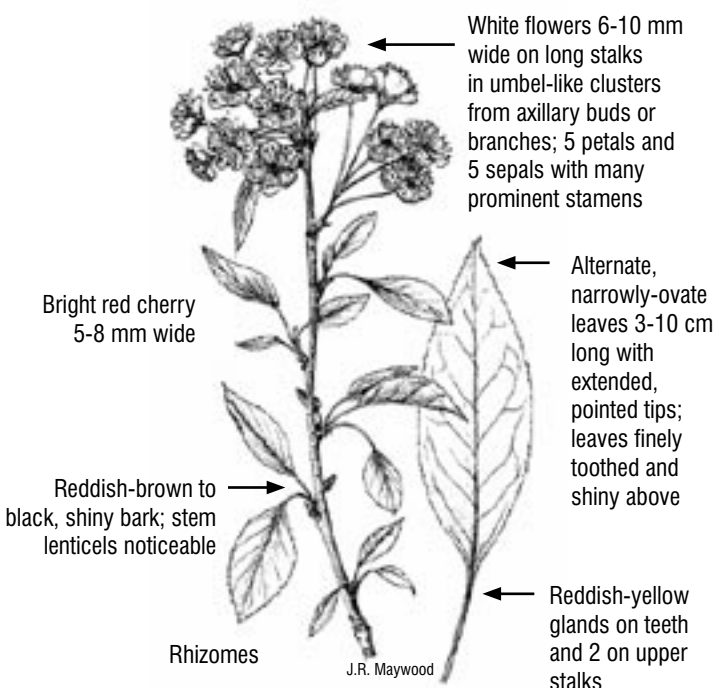
- 30-120 cm; weak stem bristles
- 3-7 coarsely toothed leaflets 12-50 mm long
- solitary, pink flowers
- fruit constricted at neck

SHRUBS

# Pincherry

## *Prunus pensylvanica*

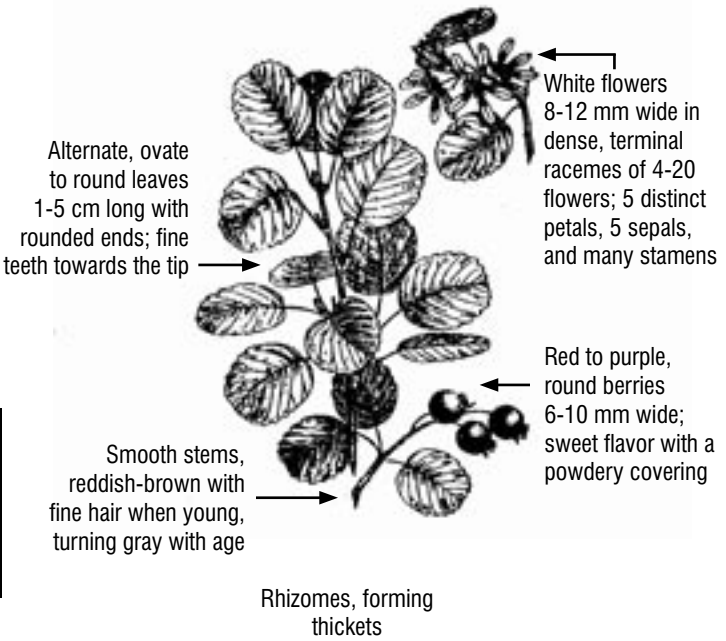
- 1-8 m tall
- Open woods, clearings, ravines, and often sandy soil
- Flowers late spring



# Saskatoon

## *Amelanchier alnifolia*

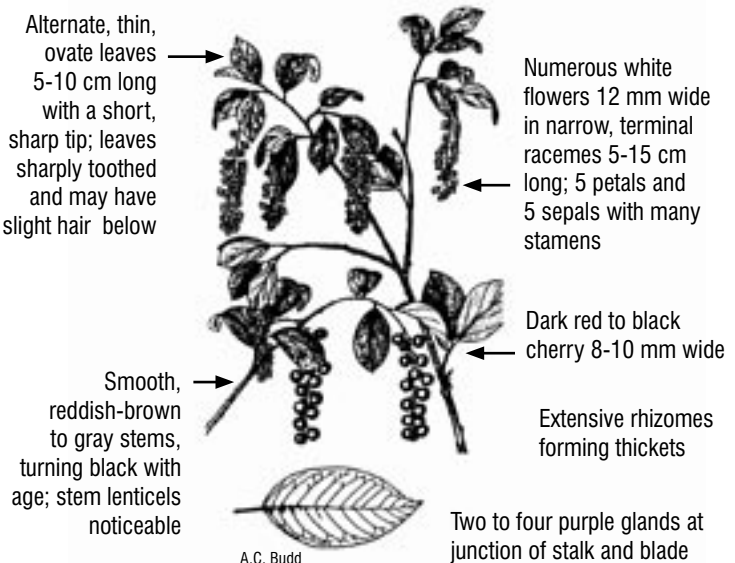
- 0.5-6 m tall
- Coulees, thickets, and open woods
- Flowers late spring



# Chokecherry

## *Prunus virginiana*

- 1-6 m tall
- Coulees, open woods, riverbanks, and sand hills
- Flowers late spring

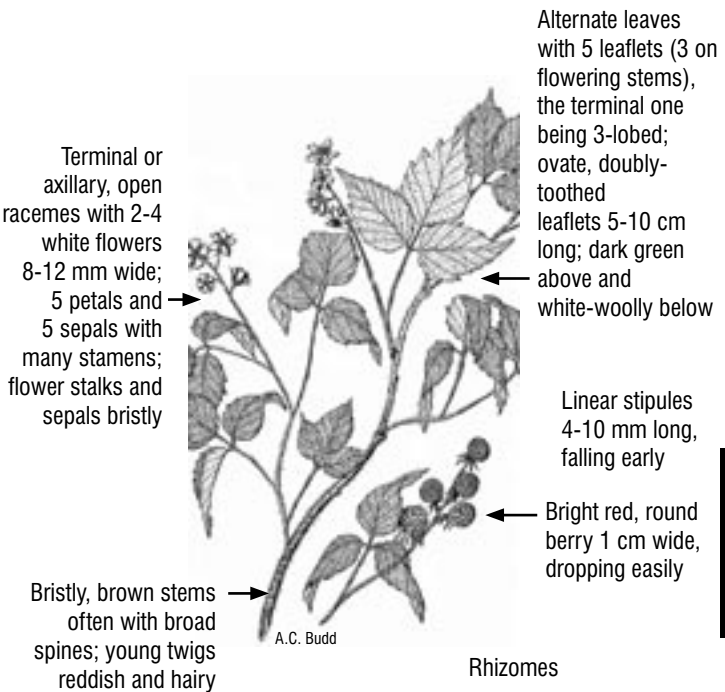




# Wild Red Raspberry

## *Rubus idaeus*

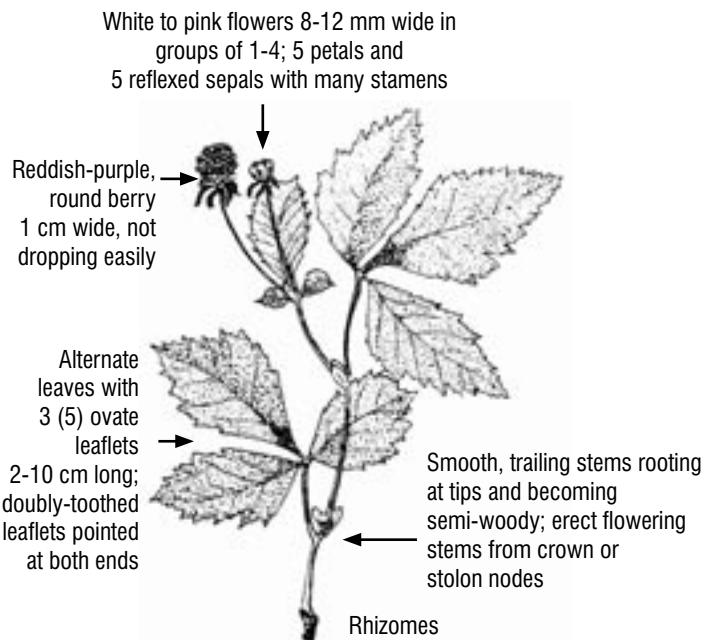
- 1-2 m tall
- Moist woods, thickets, riverbanks, and shady, disturbed sites
- Flowers early summer
- Perennial with biennial stems



# Dewberry

## *Rubus pubescens*

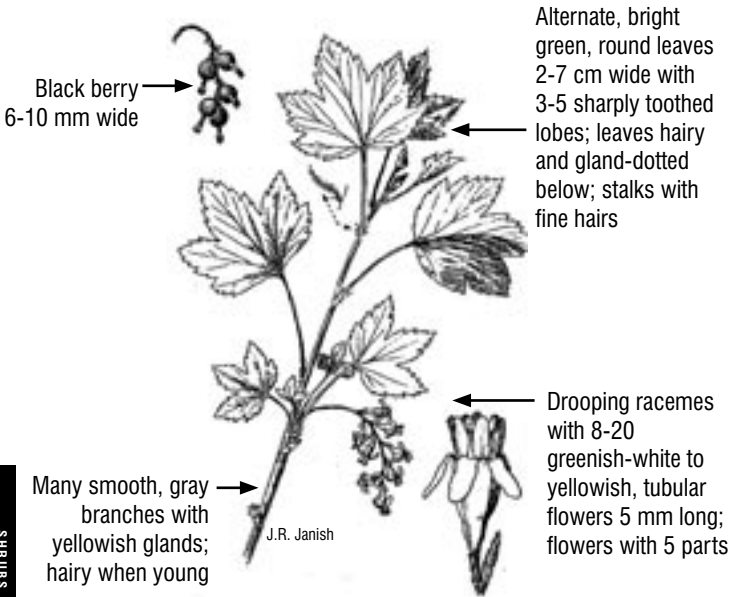
- 10-100 cm long
- Moist woods, thickets, and clearings
- Flowers early summer



## Wild Black Currant

### *Ribes americanum*

- 1-2 m tall
- Moist woods, swamps, and thickets
- Flowers late spring



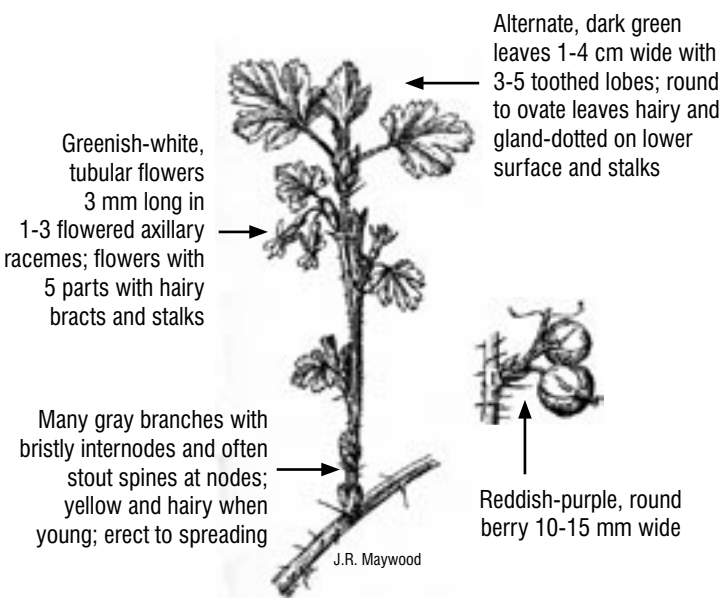
Similar species: Northern Black Currant (*R. hudsonianum*)

- leaves 2-10 cm wide, broader than long, evenly hairy and glandular below
- erect racemes with 6-12 cup-shaped, white flowers

## Northern Gooseberry

### *Ribes oxycanthoides*

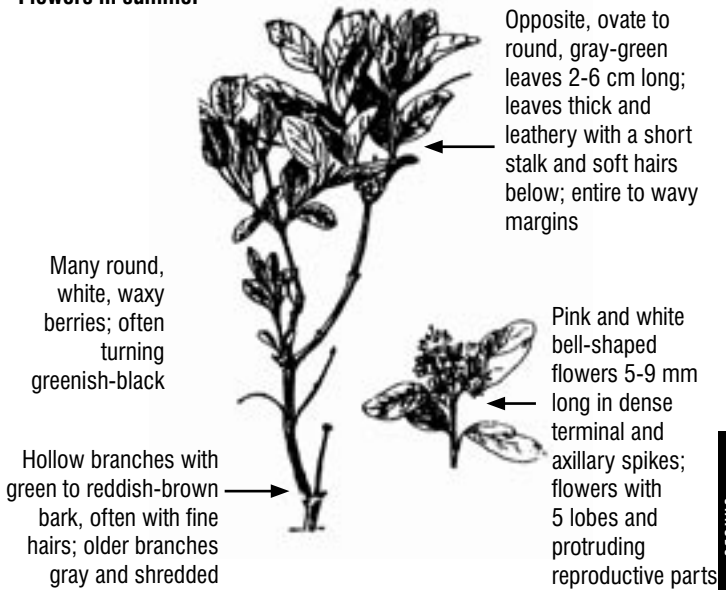
- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist woods, thickets, and coulees
- Flowers late spring



# Western Snowberry / Buckbrush

## *Symphoricarpos occidentalis*

- 50-100 cm tall
- Prairies, coulees, thickets, and open woods
- Extensive rhizomes forming colonies
- Flowers in summer

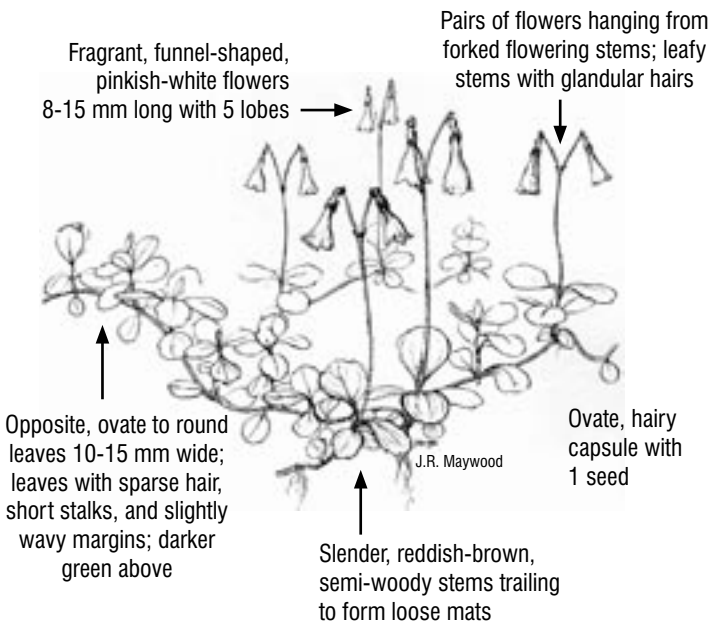


SHRUBS

# Twinflower

## *Linnaea borealis*

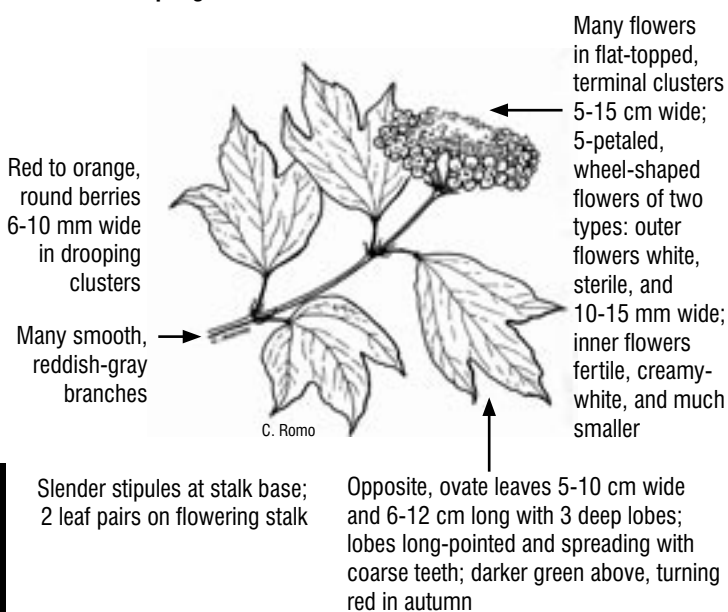
- 15-75 cm long, 3-10 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods; decaying tree trunks
- Flowers early summer
- Evergreen



## High-bush Cranberry

### *Viburnum opulus*

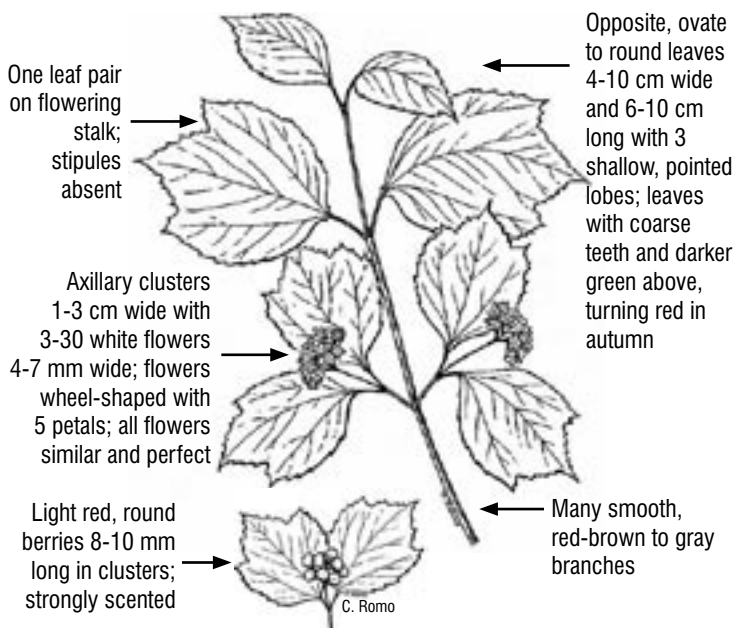
- 1-4 m tall
- Moist woods and thickets
- Flowers late spring



## Low-bush Cranberry

### *Viburnum edule*

- 0.5-2 m tall
- Thick, moist woods
- Flowers late spring



# Canada Buffaloberry

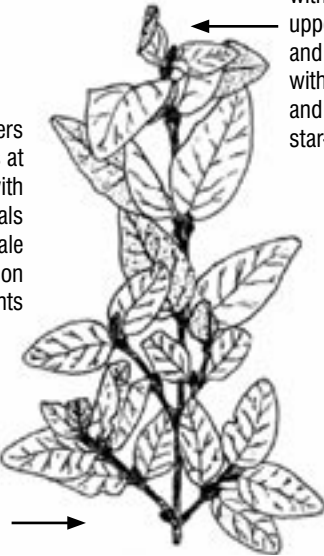
## *Shepherdia canadensis*

- 0.5-3 m tall
- Open woods, slopes, and riverbanks
- Nitrogen fixer
- Flowers early spring

Opposite, ovate leaves 2-4 cm long with wavy margins; upper surface green and lower surface with brown scales and silver, star-shaped hairs

Yellowish-brown flowers 4 mm wide in clusters at leaf axils; flowers with 4 spreading sepals and no petals; male and female flowers on separate plants

Brown, spreading branches with small scales; older branches reddish-brown to gray



Red to yellow, ovate to round berry 3-5 mm long

# Wolfwillow / Silverberry

## *Elaeagnus commutata*

- 1-5 m tall
- Grasslands, ravines, and gravelly or sandy soils
- Nitrogen fixer
- Flowers late spring and early summer

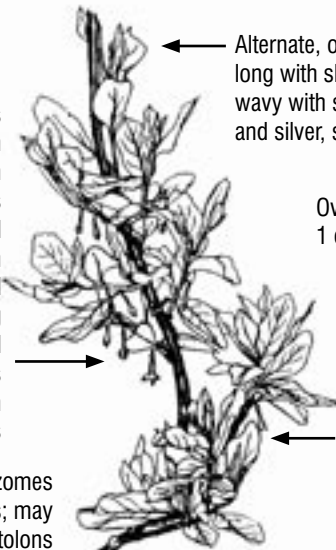
Funnel-shaped, hanging flowers 1-1.5 cm long in clusters of 2-3 in leaf axils; flowers silvery outside and yellow inside with 4 sepal lobes and no petals; strong fragrance; male and female flowers may be on separate plants

Extensive rhizomes forming colonies; may produce stolons

Alternate, ovate leaves 2-6 cm long with short stalks; leaves wavy with small, brown scales and silver, star-shaped hairs

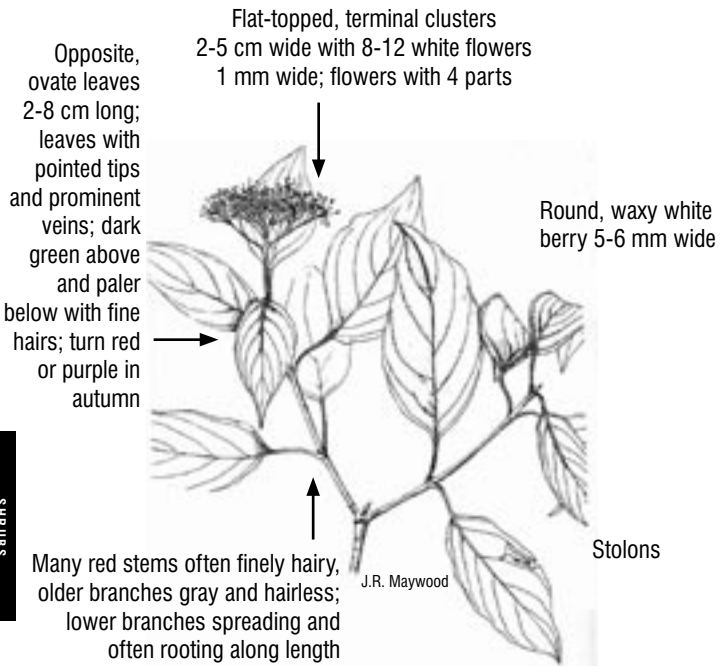
Ovate, silvery berry 1 cm long

Brown twigs with small scales; gray-brown with age



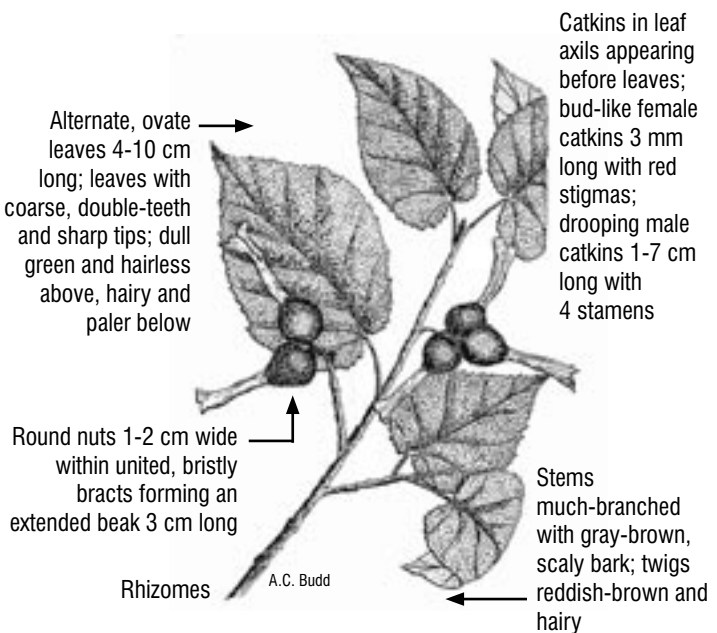
## Red-Osier Dogwood *Cornus stolonifera*

- 1-2 m tall
- Moist woods, coulees, streams, and riverbanks
- Flowers late spring



## Beaked Hazlenut *Corylus cornuta*

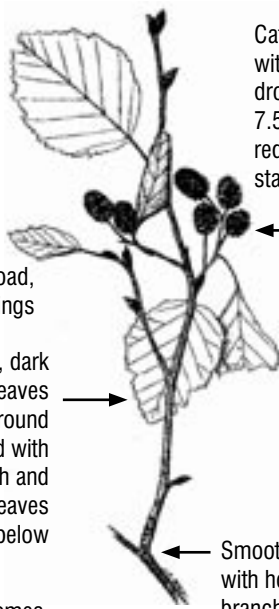
- 1-3 m tall
- Moist woods and thickets
- Flowers in spring



# Green Alder

## *Alnus crispa*

- 1-3 m tall
- Sandy, open woods, bogs, streams, and sand hills
- Flowers in spring



Catkin flowers appearing with leaves; terminal, drooping, male catkins 7.5 cm long with sticky, red scales and yellow stamens

Erect, cone-like, female catkins 10-15 mm long, clustered at base of male flowers, with hard, dark brown bracts

Flat nutlets with broad, membranous wings

Alternate, shiny, dark yellowish-green leaves 2-8 cm long; ovate to round and short-pointed with sharp, irregular teeth and short stalks; young leaves often sticky below

Smooth, thin, gray-brown bark with horizontal lenticels; young branches hairy and sticky

Rhizomes

Canadian Forest Service

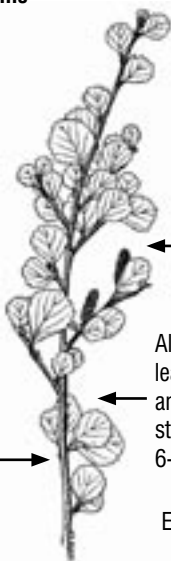
Similar species: River Alder (*A. tenuifolia*)

- 2-8 m tall; streams, lakes, and rivers
- dull, dark green leaves with toothed, wavy-lobed margins; veins hairy below
- catkins appearing before leaves
- nutlets with narrow wings

# Bog / Dwarf Birch

## *Betula glandulosa*

- 30-200 cm tall
- Bog, marshes, and streams
- Flowers in spring



Catkin flowers with resinous scales, appearing with leaves; drooping male catkins 20 mm long; erect, cone-like, female catkins 10-15 mm long

Nutlets with narrow wings

Thin, gray-brown to blackish bark with horizontal, resinous lenticels; densely branched

Alternate, circular, bright green leaves 5-20 mm long; leathery and shiny with 3-5 mm long stalks, resinous glands, and 6-10 teeth per side

Erect to spreading

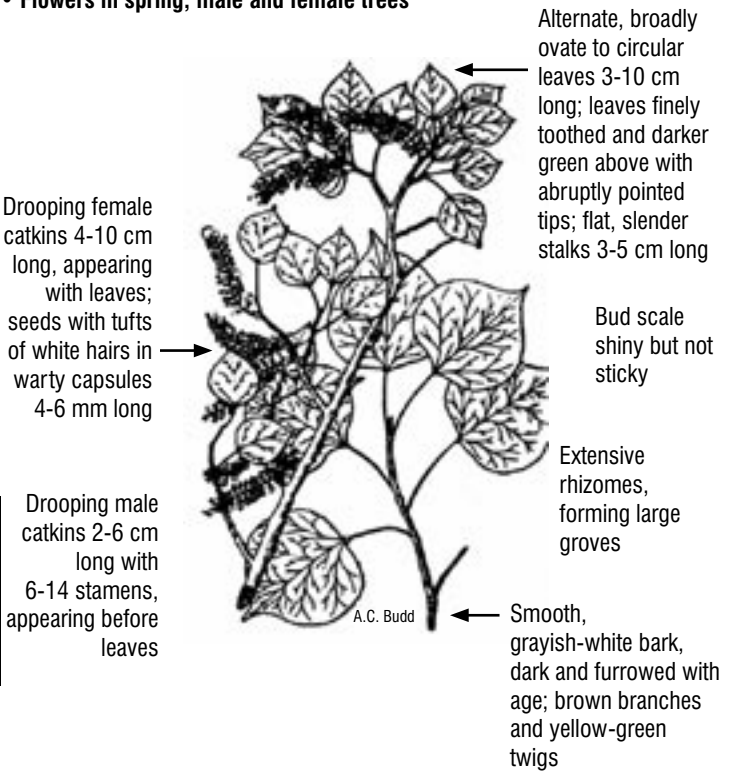
Canadian Forest Service

Similar species: Swamp Birch (*B. glandulifera*)

- twigs with fine hair and yellow glands
- leaves 10-30 mm long with 10-15 teeth per side, paler and hairy below
- nutlets with distinct wing; female catkins 10-30 mm long

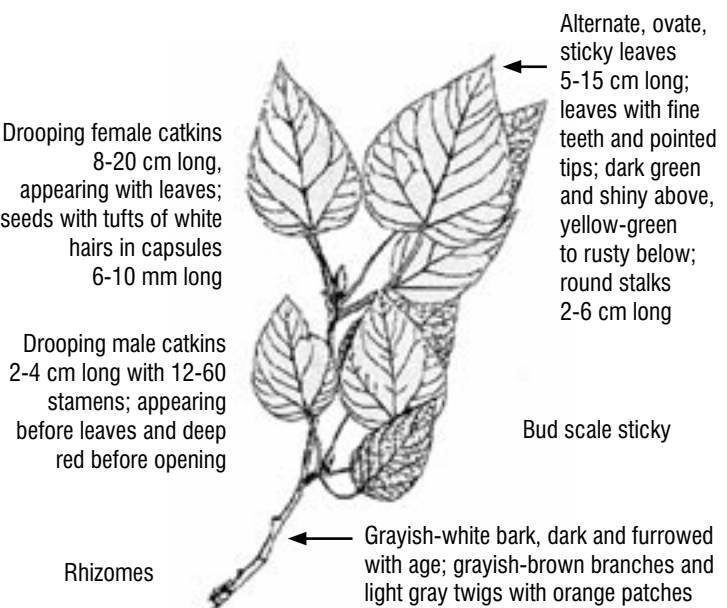
## Trembling Aspen *Populus tremuloides*

- 3-30 m tall
- Moist sites and depressions in prairies; parkland and forest
- Flowers in spring; male and female trees



## Balsam Poplar *Populus balsamifera*

- 10-25 m tall
- Riverbanks, lakes, coulees, and moist upland sites
- Flowers in spring; male and female trees

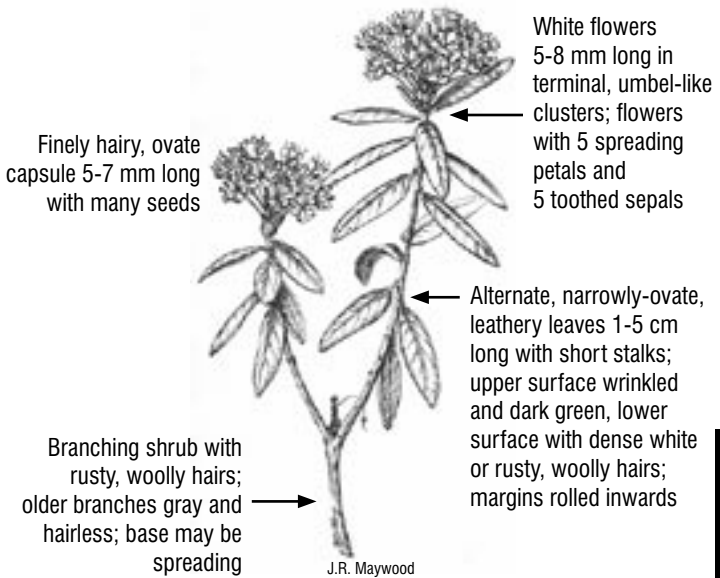




## Labrador Tea

### *Ledum groenlandicum*

- 30-150 cm tall
- Muskegs, bogs, wet coniferous woods, and acidic, infertile soil
- Flowers early summer
- Evergreen

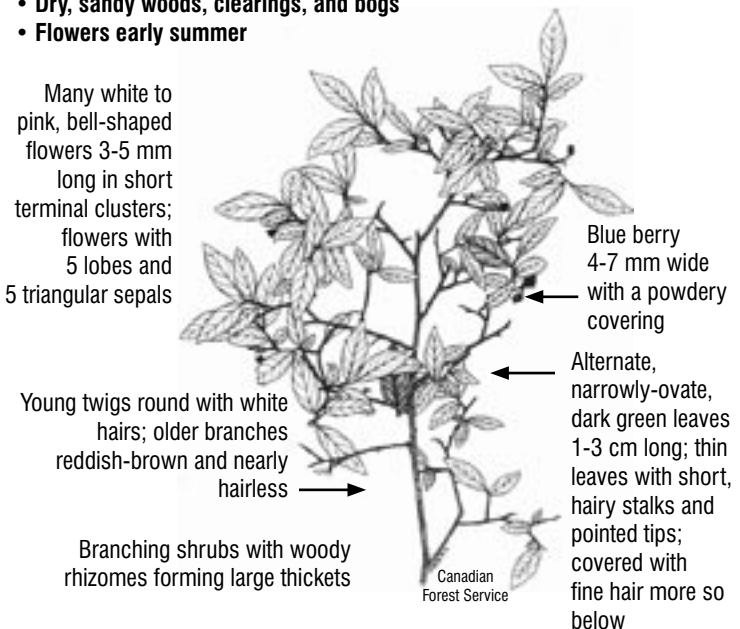


SHRUBS

## Canada Blueberry

### *Vaccinium myrtilloides*

- 10-40 cm tall
- Dry, sandy woods, clearings, and bogs
- Flowers early summer



**Similar species:** Dry-ground Cranberry (*V. vitis-idaea*)

- 10-20 cm tall, mat-forming with trailing stems
- evergreen leaves shiny above, paler below with black hairs, rolled margins
- flowers 5-8 mm long, with 4 petal lobes
- dark red, shiny berry 5-9 mm wide

## Grazing Response and Forage Value

Grazing response is how various plant species react to grazing management. Plants are divided into three categories of response to grazing. Plants that decrease in abundance with improper grazing are Decreasers (**D**). Plants that increase in abundance under similar management are Increasers (**I**). Plants that invade sites or heavily increase on sites after improper grazing are Invaders (**IV**). Invaders that are not native to North America are termed Exotic Invaders (**EIV**). As the condition of the range site decreases, there are continually less Decreaser species and more Increaser and Invader species. Grazing response for a species may vary between soil and climate zone, as well as range site. The response to grazing for each species indicated on the next page is the generally accepted response on an average site. This usually pertains to upland sites with a loamy soil texture. Some species have a different response in a certain soil zone, as seen in brackets.

Forage value of a plant is determined by considering its palatability, nutritive quality, longevity, and area or primary distribution. Forage value varies, depending on the kind of livestock using the plants and the season of use. There are four classifications of this indicator. Plants that are palatable, nutritious, and therefore grazed readily have a Good forage value (**G**). Plants that have moderate palatability and nutrition have a Fair forage value (**F**). Plants that are either unpalatable, not nutritious, or low growing with reduced forage have a Poor forage value (**P**). Poisonous plants is the fourth forage value classification (**POIS**).

## SPECIES

## GRAZING RESPONSE

## FORAGE VALUE

SPECIES	GRAZING RESPONSE	FORAGE VALUE
American Hedysarum	I	F
American Vetch	D	G
Arrow-leaved Colt's Foot	I	P
Awned Wheatgrass	D	G
Balsam Poplar	I – IV	P
Baneberry	I	P
Beaked Hazelnut	I	P
Bearberry	I	P
Blue-eyed Grass	I	P
Bog Birch	I	F
Bunchberry	I	G
Canada Anemone	I	P
Canada Blueberry	I	P
Canada Bluegrass	EIV	G
Canada Buffaloberry	I	P
Canada Goldenrod	I	P
Canada Wild Rye	D	G
Canadian Rice Grass	D	F
Chokecherry	D	F – POIS
Cotton Grass	I	P
Cow Parsnip	D	G
Cream-coloured Vetchling	D	G
Dewberry	I	F
Green Alder	I	P
Green Needle Grass	D	G
Fairybells	D	P
Fireweed	I	F
Fringed Brome	D	G
Hairy Wild Rye	I	F
Hay Sedge	D	G
High-bush Cranberry	D	F
Hooker's Oat Grass	D	F
June Grass	I	G
Kentucky Bluegrass	EIV	G
Labrador Tea	I	P
Lindley's Aster	I	F
Low-bush Cranberry	D	F
Marsh Reed Grass	D	F
Narrow Reed Grass	D	F
Northern Bedstraw	I	P
Northern Bog Sedge	D	F
Northern Bog Violet	D	P
Northern Gooseberry	I	P
Northern Reed Grass	D	F
Northern Rice Grass	D	F
Northern Wheatgrass	D (I – black)	G

SPECIES	GRAZING RESPONSE	FORAGE VALUE
Philadelphia Fleabane	I	P
Pincherry	D	F
Plains Rough Fescue	D	G
Purple Oat Grass	I	P
Quackgrass	EIV	G
Red-Osier Dogwood	I	G
Richardson's Needle Grass	D	G
Rough Cinquefoil	I	P
Rough Hair Grass	IV	F
Saskatoon	D	G
Shrubby Cinquefoil	I	P
Slender Wheatgrass	D (I – black)	G
Smooth Aster	I	F
Smooth Brome	EIV	G
Smooth Sweet Cicely	I	F
Snakeroot	I	F
Spreading Dogbane	I	P
Sprengel's Sedge	D	G
Star-flower Solomon's Seal	I	F
Sweet Grass	I	F
Tall Lungwort	I	F
Tall Meadow Rue	I	P
Three-toothed Cinquefoil	I	P
Timber Oat Grass	I	G
Trembling Aspen	I – IV	F
Twinflower	I	P
Two-leaved Solomon's Seal	I	F
Western Canada Violet	I	P
Western Porcupine Grass	D (I – black)	G
Western Snowberry	I	P
Western Wheatgrass	I	G
White-Grained Rice Grass	D	F
Wild Black Currant	I	P
Wild Licorice	I	P
Wild Pea-vine	D	G
Wild Red Raspberry	I	F
Wild Sarsaparilla	D	P
Wild Strawberry	I	P
Wolfwillow	I	F
Wood's Rose	I	F
Yellow Avens	I	P

## Glossary

**Alluvial:** lowland areas of clay, sand, and silt left by floodwaters.

**Annual:** a plant that germinates, flowers, and sets seed, in one year.

**Anther:** the pollen container of a stamen or the male reproductive organ.

**Auricles:** a pair of ear-shaped appendages or lobes, at the junction of the blade and sheath in many grasses and sedges.

**Awn:** a slender, often terminal, bristle.

**Axillary:** a flowering structure located in, or arising from an axil.

**Biennial:** a plant that completes its lifecycle in two years.

**Capsule:** a dry fruit with more than one chamber and opening at maturity.

**Catkin:** a scaly spike of flowers, often of one sex and without petals.

**Culm:** the stem of a grass or a sedge.

**Disc florets:** tubular, inner flowers of many Sunflower Family plants.

**Floret:** a single flower of a dense flowering unit.

**Glandular:** bearing glands (a spot on an organ surface or hair tip producing a sticky or greasy substance).

**Glume:** one of the two bracts at the base of the grass spikelet.

**Inflorescence:** a mode of arrangement of flowers in a flowering unit or structure.

**Internode:** the portion of a stem between two nodes (*see node*).

**Keeled:** a sharp or distinct ridge.

**Lacerate:** ligule margins irregularly cut or torn.

**Lemma:** the lower of the two bracts enclosing the single flowers (florets) in grass spikelets.

**Lenticel:** a small, slightly raised area on the bark in many shrubs and trees.

**Ligule:** the appendage on the inner side of the leaf, at the junction of the blade and sheath in many grasses and sedges; a membrane or fringe of hair.

**Node:** the place on a stem from which leaves or branches arise.

**Palea:** the upper of the two bracts enclosing the single flowers (florets) in grass spikelets.

**Palmate:** a leaf with the shape of a hand, with three or more leaflets, veins, or lobes from a common point.

**Perennial:** a plant that persists for more than two years.

**Perigynium:** a sac-like, papery sheath enclosing the fruit in sedges.

**Petals:** the second, or inner set of floral leaves, usually coloured or white.

**Pinnate:** a leaf with leaflets arranged on each side of the common axis.

**Pistil:** the female reproductive parts of a flower, including the stigma at the summit, the ovary at the base, and the style connecting the two.

**Ray florets:** strap-like, often outer flowers of many Sunflower Family plants.

**Reflexed:** bent sharply backward, or downward.

**Rhizomes:** an underground, creeping, root-like stem, often producing new plants at its nodes or tip.

**Samara:** a dry, winged fruit often with one seed and not spitting at maturity.

**Sepals:** the first, or outer set of floral leaves, usually green and leaf-like.

**Sheath:** the part of a leaf-base which encloses the stem.

**Spikelet:** a group of singular flowers in grasses and sedges (*see floret*).

**Stamen:** the male reproductive parts of a flower, with the pollen-bearing anther at the summit

**Stigma:** the summit of the female reproductive parts, that receives the pollen.

**Stipules:** a pair of appendages at the base of a leaf or leaf stalk.

**Stolons:** a horizontal, creeping stem from the base of a plant, producing new plants at its nodes or tip.

**Style:** the structure in the female reproductive parts between the stigma and the ovary.

**Umbel:** a flower cluster where all flower stalks arise from the same point.

**Umbellet:** a secondary umbel.

# Alphabetical Index by Common Name

## Grasses

Awned (Bearded) Wheatgrass .....	15
Canada Bluegrass .....	4
Canada Wildrye .....	17
Canadian Rice Grass .....	13
Fringed Brome .....	5
Green Needle Grass .....	7
Hairy Wildrye .....	6
Hooker's Oat Grass.....	9
June Grass .....	7
Kentucky Bluegrass .....	4
Marsh Reed Grass .....	10
Narrow Reed Grass .....	11
Northern Reed Grass .....	11
Northern Rice Grass .....	12
Northern Wheatgrass .....	16
Plains Rough Fescue .....	14
Purple Oat Grass .....	10
Quackgrass .....	17
Richardson's Needle Grass .....	8
Rough Hair Grass.....	6
Slender Wheatgrass .....	15
Slender Wood Grass .....	13
Smooth Brome .....	5
Sweet Grass .....	14
Timber Oat Grass .....	9
Western Porcupine Grass .....	8
Western Wheatgrass (Bluejoint) .....	16
White-grained Mountain Rice Grass .....	12

## Grass-like Plants

Cotton Grass.....	20
Hay Sedge .....	19
Northern Bog Sedge .....	20
Sprengel's Sedge.....	19

## Forbs

American Hedysarum .....	26
American Vetch .....	24
Arrow-leaved Colt's Foot .....	23
Baneberry .....	34
Blue-eyed Grass .....	28
Bunchberry .....	35
Canada Anemone .....	35
Canada Goldenrod .....	23
Cow Parsnip .....	31
Cream-coloured Vetchling .....	25
Fairybells .....	28
Fireweed.....	36
Lindley's Aster .....	22
Northern Bedstraw.....	37
Northern Bog Violet.....	29
Philadelphia Fleabane .....	24
Rough Cinquefoil .....	32
Smooth Aster .....	22
Smooth Sweet Cicely .....	30



Snakeroot .....	30
Spreading Dogbane .....	37
Star-flowered Solomon's Seal .....	27
Tall Lungwort (Bluebell) .....	36
Tall Meadow Rue .....	34
Three-toothed Cinquefoil .....	32
Two-leaved Solomon's Seal .....	27
Western Canada Violet .....	29
Wild Licorice .....	26
Wild Peavine .....	25
Wild Sarsaparilla .....	31
Wild Strawberry .....	33
Yellow Avens.....	33

## **Shrubs**

Balsam Poplar.....	48
Beaked Hazelnut .....	46
Bearberry.....	38
Bog (Dwarf) Birch .....	47
Canada Blueberry .....	49
Canada Buffaloberry .....	45
Chokecherry .....	40
Dewberry .....	41
Green Alder .....	47
High-bush Cranberry .....	44
Labrador Tea .....	49
Low-bush Cranberry .....	44
Northern Gooseberry .....	42
Pincherry .....	39
Red-Osier Dogwood .....	46
Saskatoon .....	40
Shrubby Cinquefoil .....	38
Trembling Aspen .....	48
Twinflower .....	43
Western Snowberry (Buckbrush) .....	43
Wild Black Currant .....	42
Wild Red Raspberry .....	41
Wolfwillow (Silverberry) .....	45
Wood's Rose .....	39

# Alphabetical Index by Latin Name

## Grasses

<i>Agropyron dasystachyum</i> ( <i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> ).....	16
<i>Agropyron repens</i> ( <i>Elymus repens</i> ).....	17
<i>Agropyron smithii</i> ( <i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> ).....	16
<i>Agropyron subsecundum</i> ( <i>Elymus trachycaulus</i> ssp. <i>subsecundus</i> ) .....	15
<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i> ( <i>Elymus trachycaulus</i> ssp. <i>trachycaulus</i> ) .....	15
<i>Agrostis scabra</i> .....	6
<i>Bromus ciliatus</i> .....	5
<i>Bromus inermis</i> .....	5
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> .....	10
<i>Calamagrostis inexpansa</i> ( <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> ssp. <i>inexpansa</i> ).....	11
<i>Calamagrostis neglecta</i> ( <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> ssp. <i>stricta</i> ).....	11
<i>Cinna latifolia</i> .....	13
<i>Danthonia intermedia</i> .....	9
<i>Elymus canadensis</i> .....	17
<i>Elymus innovatus</i> ( <i>Leymus innovatus</i> ) .....	6
<i>Festuca hallii</i> .....	14
<i>Helictotrichon hookeri</i> ( <i>Avenula hookeri</i> ).....	9
<i>Hierochloa odorata</i> .....	14
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i> .....	7
<i>Oryzopsis asperifolia</i> .....	12
<i>Oryzopsis canadensis</i> ( <i>Piptatherum canadense</i> ) .....	13
<i>Oryzopsis pungens</i> ( <i>Piptatherum pungens</i> ).....	12
<i>Poa compressa</i> .....	4
<i>Poa pratensis</i> .....	4
<i>Schizachne purpurascens</i> .....	10
<i>Stipa viridula</i> ( <i>Nassella viridula</i> ).....	7
<i>Stipa curtisetata</i> ( <i>Hesperostipa curtisetata</i> ).....	8
<i>Stipa richardsonii</i> ( <i>Achnatherum richardsonii</i> ).....	8

## Grass-like Plants

<i>Carex gynocrates</i> ( <i>Carex dioica</i> ssp. <i>gynocrates</i> ) .....	20
<i>Carex siccata</i> ( <i>Carex aenea</i> , <i>Carex foenea</i> ).....	19
<i>Carex sprengei</i> .....	19
<i>Eriophorum species</i> .....	20

## Forbs

<i>Actaea rubra</i> .....	34
<i>Anemone canadensis</i> .....	35
<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i> .....	37
<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i> .....	31
<i>Aster ciliolatus</i> .....	22
<i>Aster laevis</i> .....	22
<i>Cornus canadensis</i> .....	35
<i>Disporum trachycarpum</i> ( <i>Prosartes trachycarpa</i> ) .....	28
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> ( <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> ssp. <i>angustifolium</i> ).....	36
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i> .....	24
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> .....	33
<i>Galium boreale</i> .....	37
<i>Geum aleppicum</i> .....	33
<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i> .....	26

<i>Hedysarum alpinum</i> var. <i>americanum</i> .....	26
<i>Heracleum lanatum</i> ( <i>Heracleum maximum</i> ).....	31
<i>Lathyrus ochroleucus</i> .....	25
<i>Lathyrus venosus</i> .....	25
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i> .....	27
<i>Mertensia paniculata</i> .....	36
<i>Osmorhiza aristata</i> .....	30
<i>Petasites sagittatus</i> ( <i>Petasites frigidus</i> var. <i>sagittatus</i> ).....	23
<i>Potentilla norvegica</i> .....	32
<i>Potentilla tridentata</i> ( <i>Sibbaldiopsis tridentata</i> ).....	32
<i>Sanicula marilandica</i> .....	30
<i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i> .....	28
<i>Smilicina stellata</i> ( <i>Maianthemum stellatum</i> ).....	27
<i>Solidago canadensis</i> .....	23
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i> .....	34
<i>Vicia americana</i> .....	24
<i>Viola cucullata</i> ( <i>Viola nephrophylla</i> ).....	29
<i>Viola rugulosa</i> ( <i>Viola canadensis</i> var. <i>rugulosa</i> ).....	29

## Shrubs

<i>Alnus crispa</i> ( <i>Alnus viridis</i> ssp. <i>crispa</i> ).....	47
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> .....	40
<i>Arcostaphylos uva-ursi</i> .....	38
<i>Betula glandulosa</i> ( <i>Betula nana</i> var. <i>exilis</i> ).....	47
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> ( <i>Cornus sericea</i> ).....	46
<i>Corylus cornuta</i> .....	46
<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i> .....	45
<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i> .....	49
<i>Linnaea borealis</i> .....	43
<i>Populus balsamifera</i> .....	48
<i>Populus tremuloides</i> .....	48
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> ( <i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i> ssp. <i>floribunda</i> ).....	38
<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i> .....	39
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> .....	40
<i>Ribes americanum</i> .....	42
<i>Ribes oxycanthoides</i> .....	42
<i>Rosa woodsii</i> .....	39
<i>Rubus idaeus</i> .....	41
<i>Rubus pubescens</i> .....	41
<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i> .....	45
<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i> .....	43
<i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i> .....	49
<i>Viburnum edule</i> .....	44
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> .....	44

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## Illustrations

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