



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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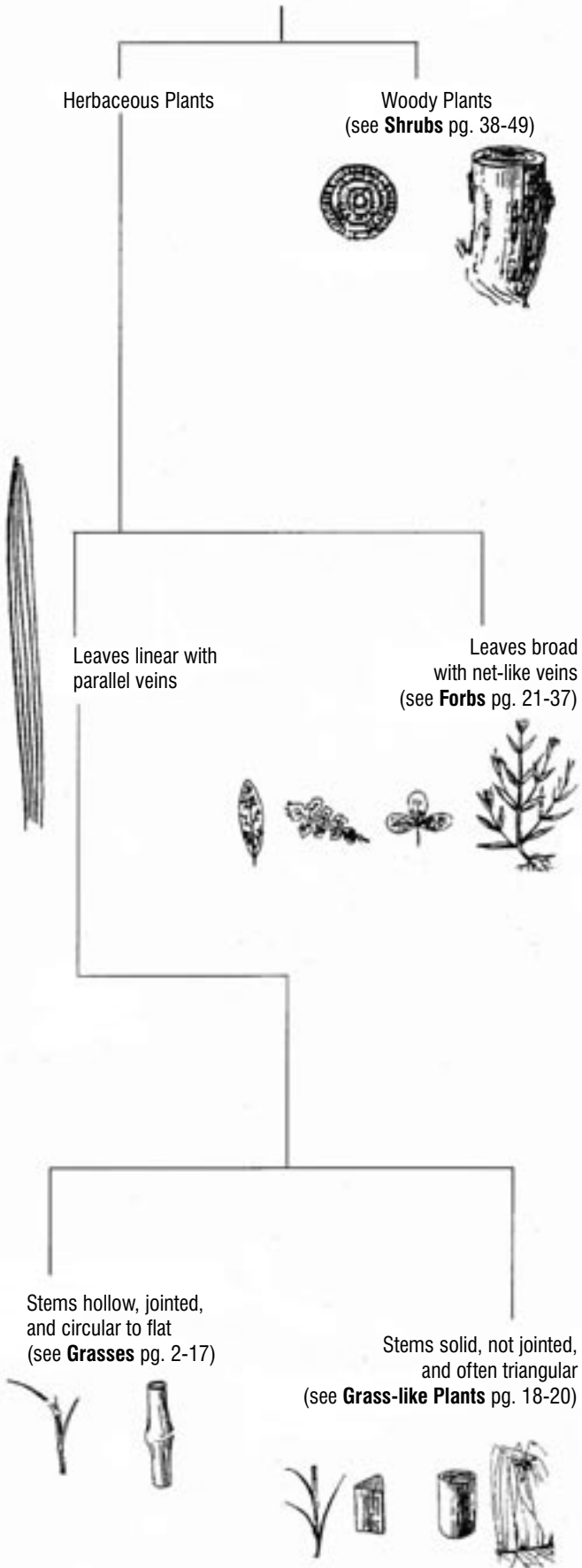
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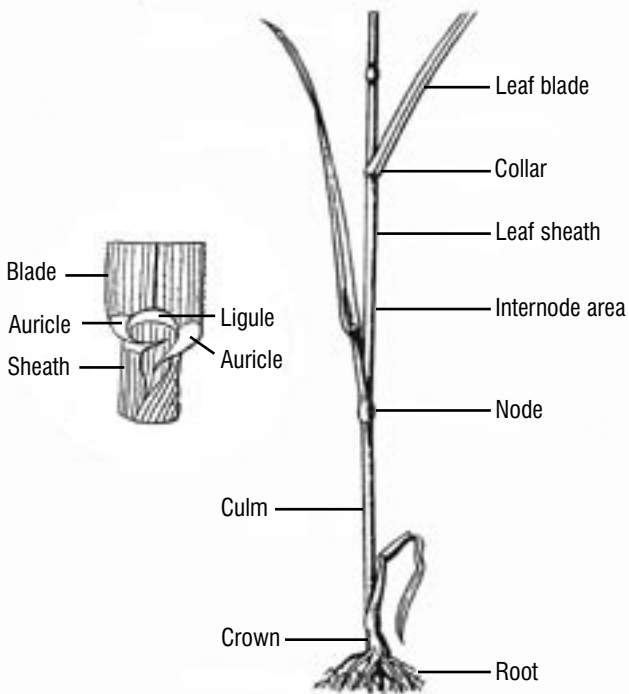
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Common Range Plants

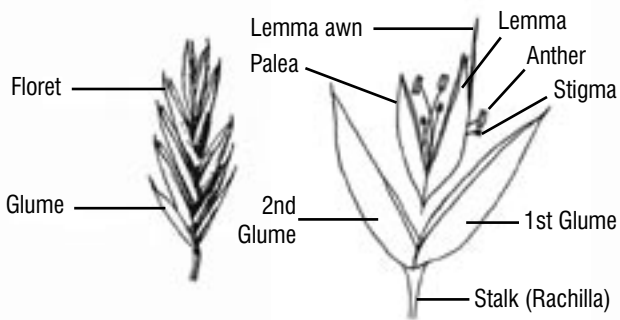


The Grass Plant Parts



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

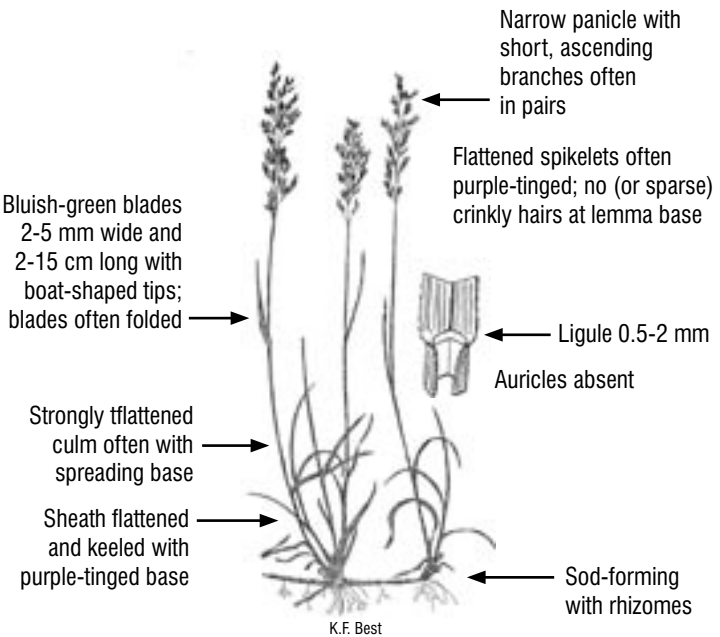
Branched flowering head with spikelets borne on stalks and lower branches longest and flowering first (Examples: bluegrasses, needle grasses, reed grasses).



Canada Bluegrass

Poa compressa

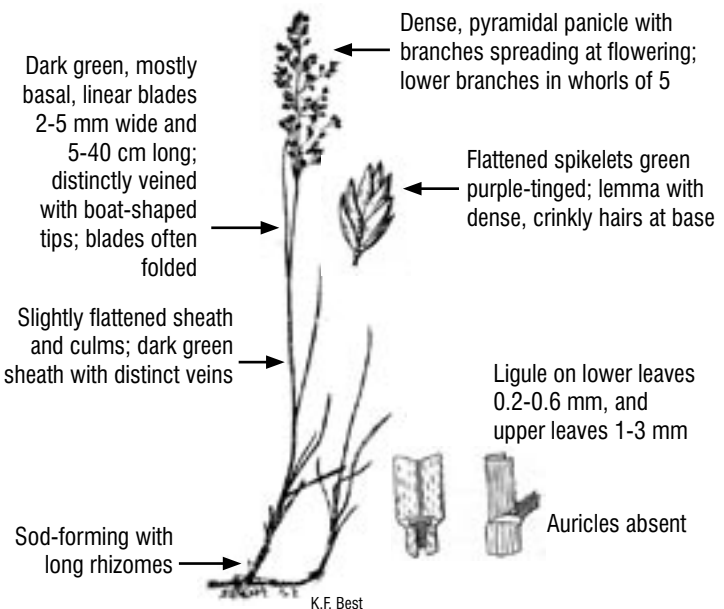
- Culm 15-50 cm, panicle 3-10 cm
- Introduced, invasive in natural areas
- Moist, well-drained, often poor soils



Kentucky Bluegrass

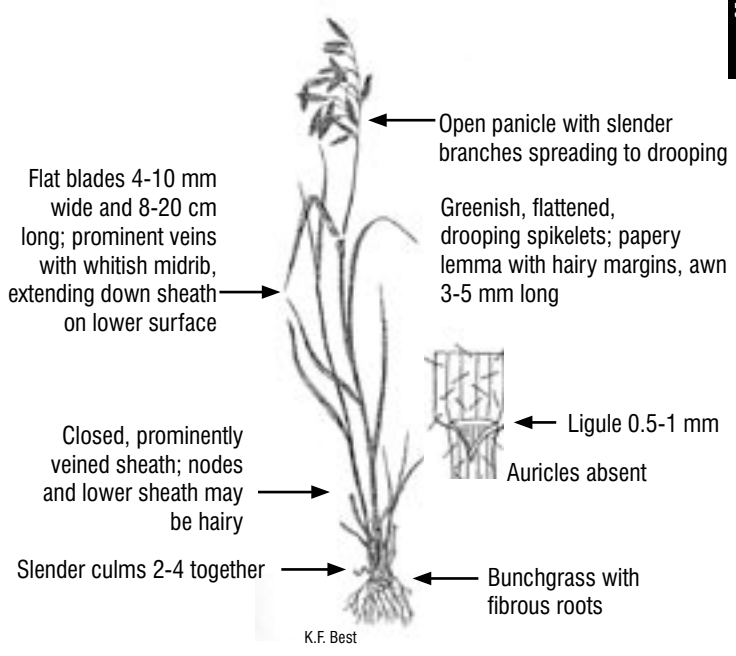
Poa pratensis

- 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)



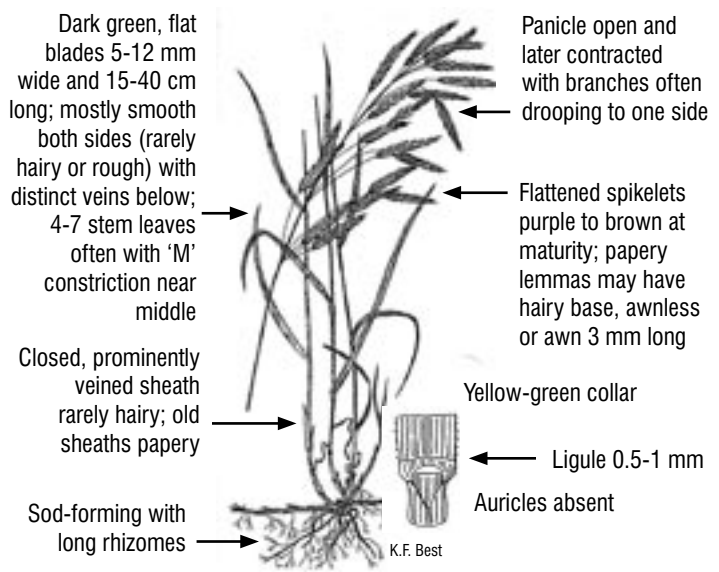
Fringed Brome *Bromus ciliatus*

- 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

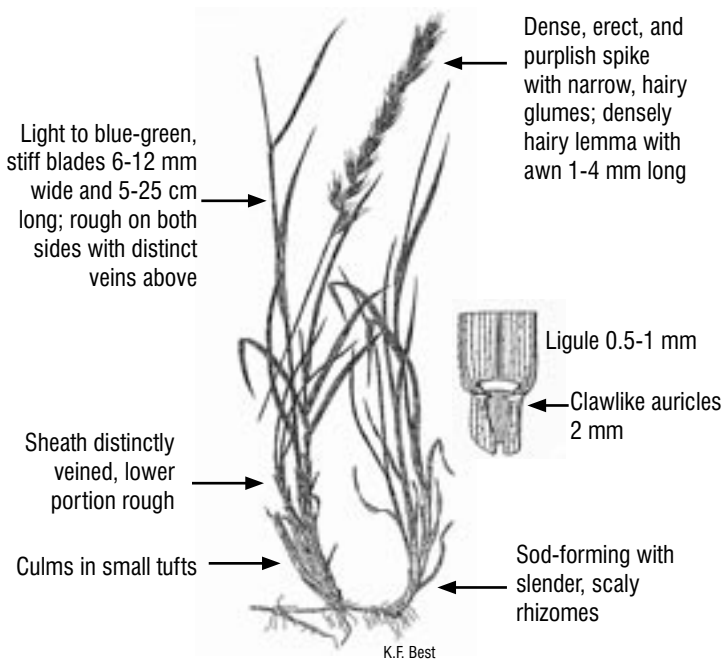


Hairy Wildrye

Elymus innovatus

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

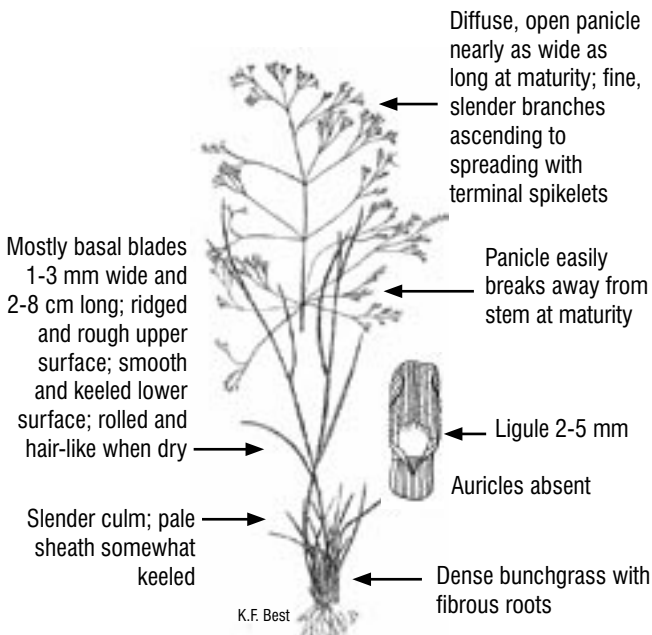
GRASSES



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

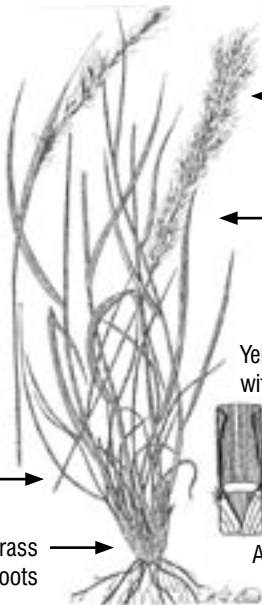
Greenish, narrow, and compact panicle

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

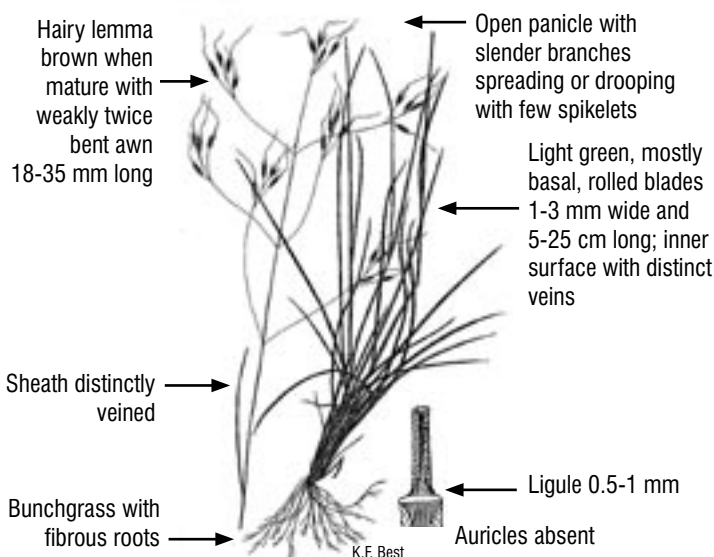


K.F. Best

Richardson's Needle Grass

Stipa richardsonii

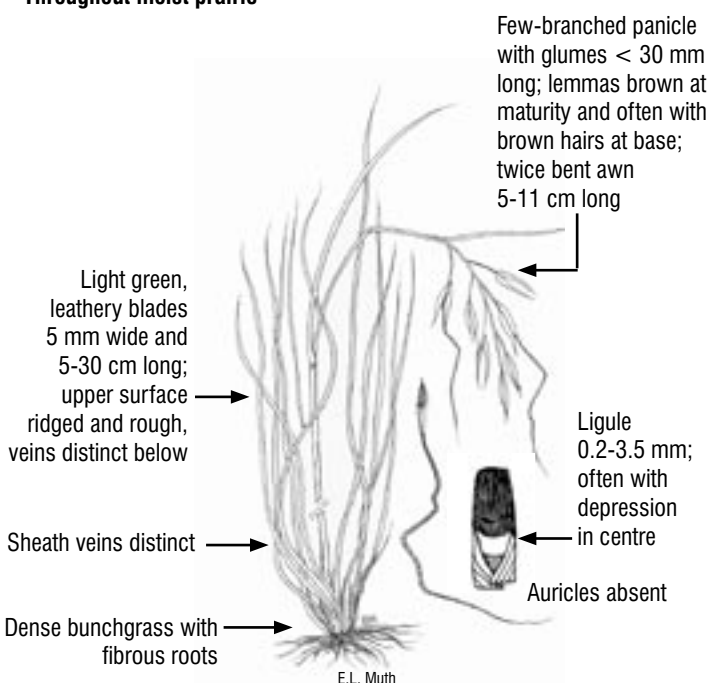
- Culm 50-80 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Moist grasslands and open woods



Western Porcupine Grass

Stipa curtisetata

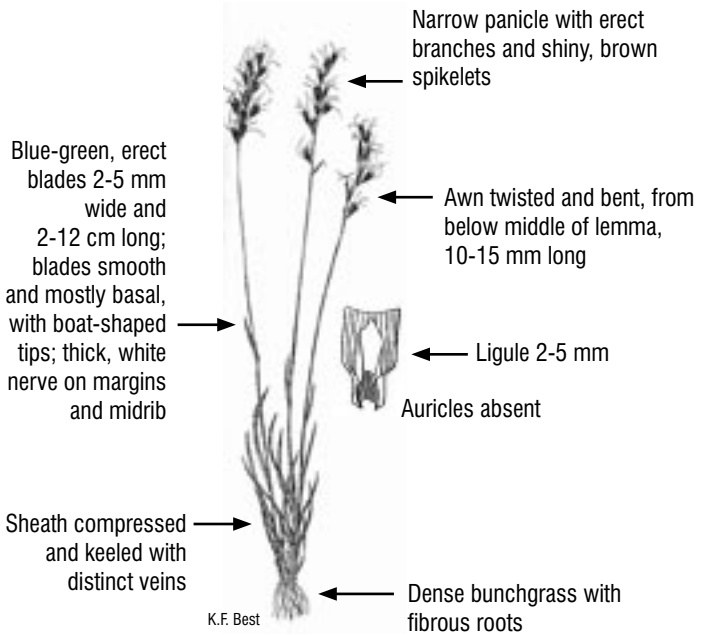
- Culm 40-60 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Throughout moist prairie



Hooker's Oat Grass

Helictotrichon hookeri

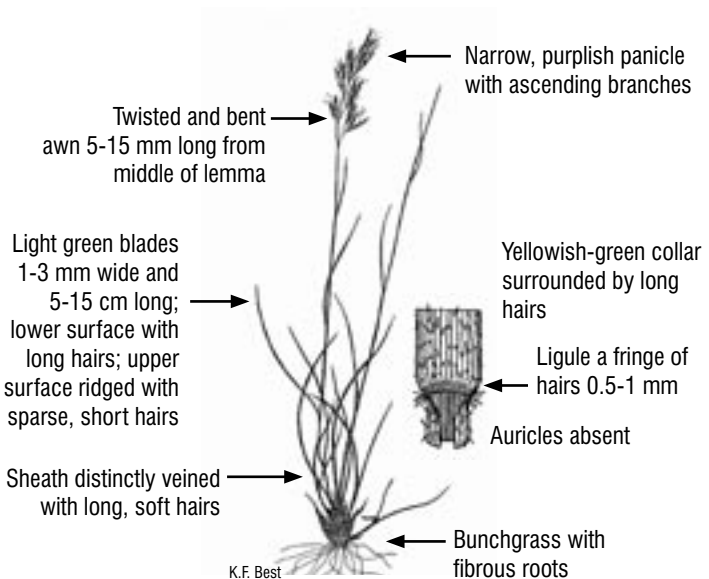
- Culm 20-40 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Moist prairie; seldom abundant



Timber Oat Grass

Danthonia intermedia

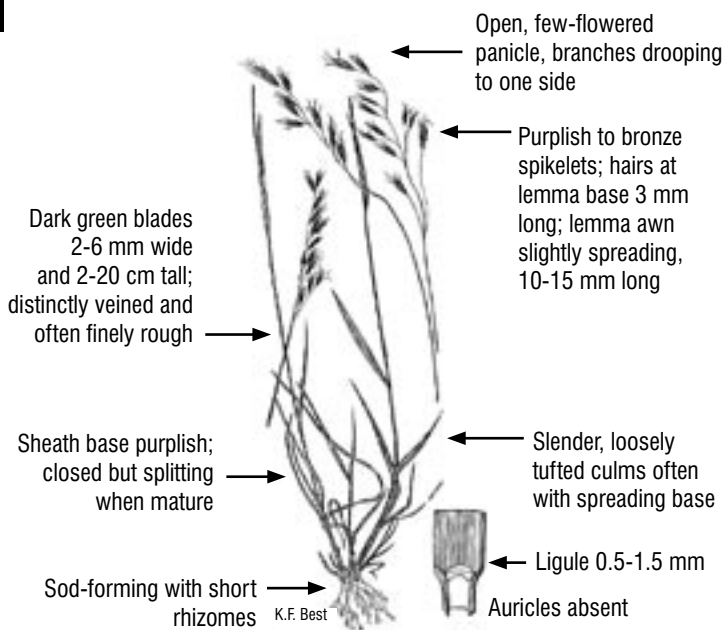
- Culm 10-50 cm, panicle 2-5 cm
- Fescue Prairie and open woods



Purple Oat Grass

Schizachne purpurascens

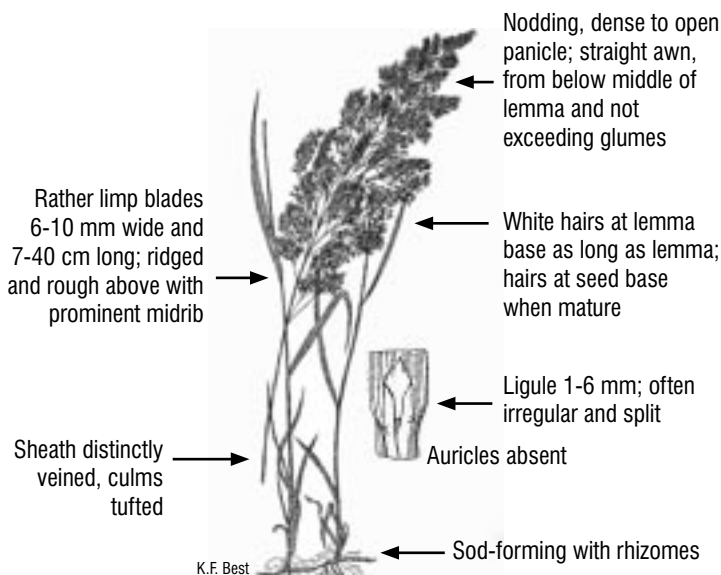
- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 6-15 cm
- Open woods and clearings



Marsh Reed Grass

Calamagrostis canadensis

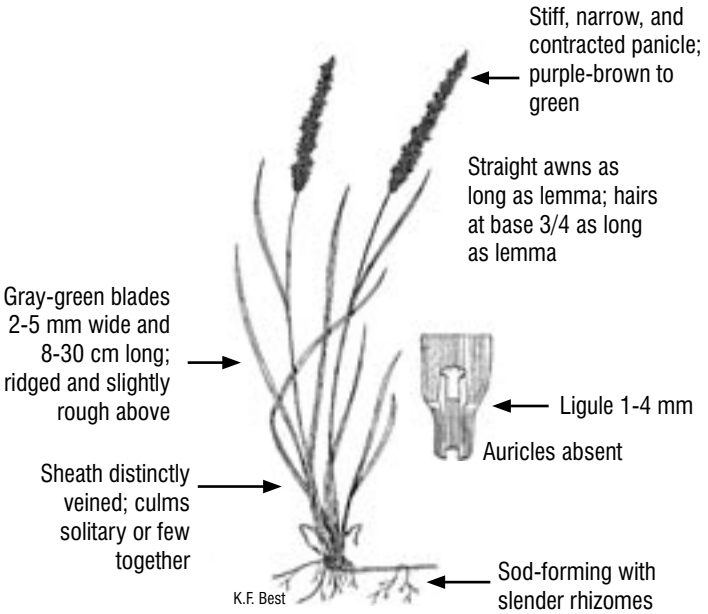
- Culm 60-150 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Marshes, sloughs, lakeshores, and moist woods



Narrow Reed Grass

Calamagrostis neglecta

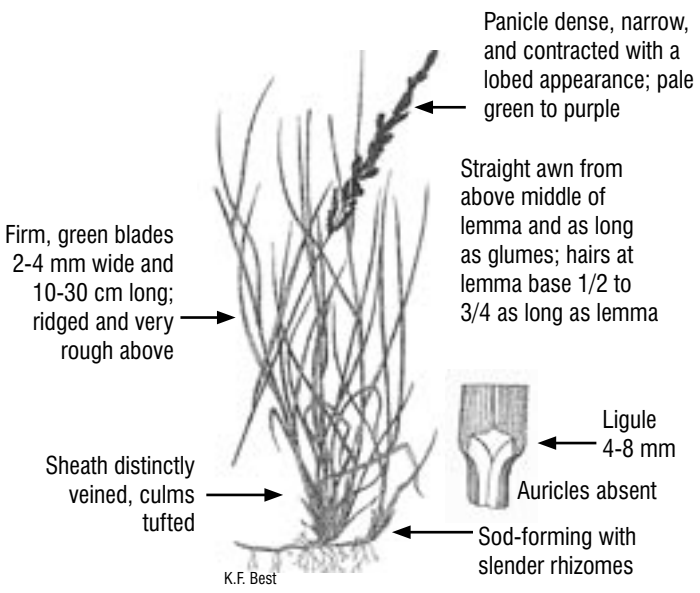
- Culm 30-100 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Moist areas, often with other reed grasses in wet, acid soils
- Can hybridize with northern reed grass



Northern Reed Grass

Calamagrostis inexpansa

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

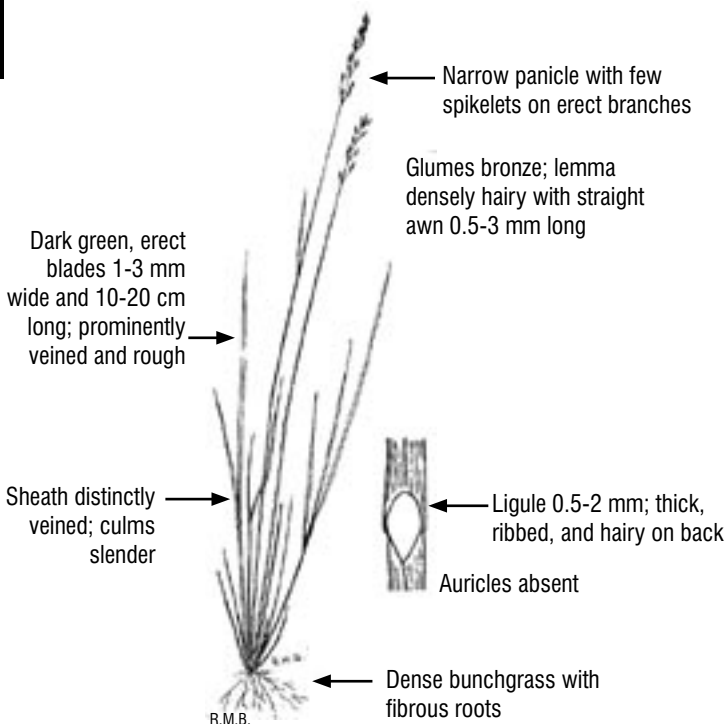


Northern Rice Grass

Oryzopsis pungens

GRASSES

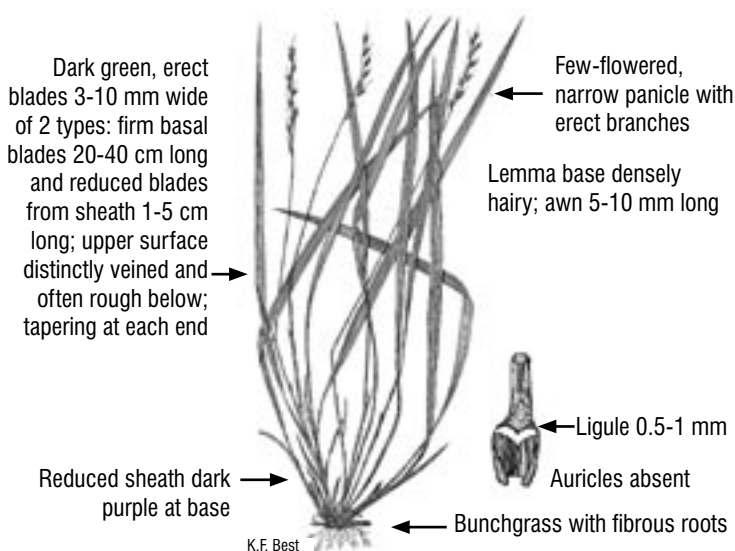
- Culm 20-50 cm, panicle 3-6 cm
- Open woods and clearings; light soils



White-grained Mountain Rice Grass

Oryzopsis asperifolia

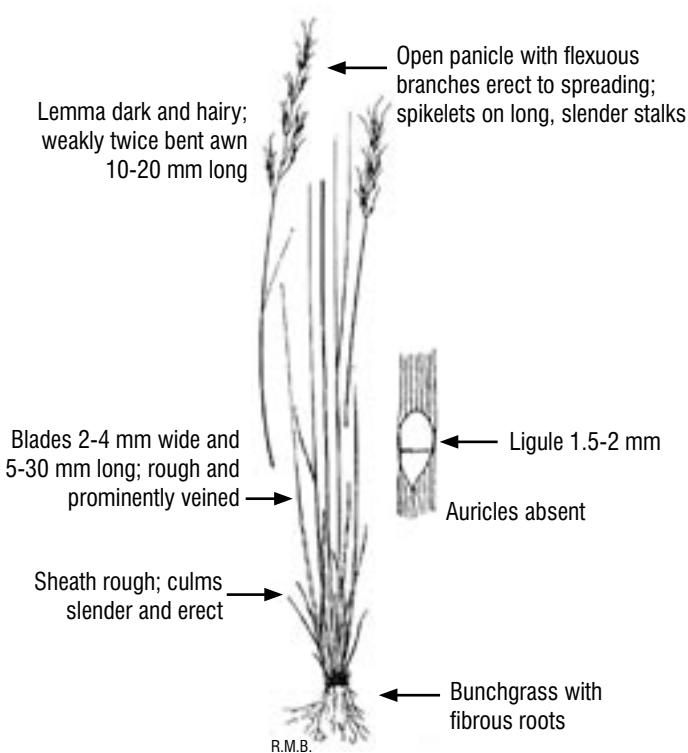
- Culm 20-70 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Wooded areas and slopes
- Two phases: first erect, later spreading



Canadian Rice Grass

Oryzopsis canadensis

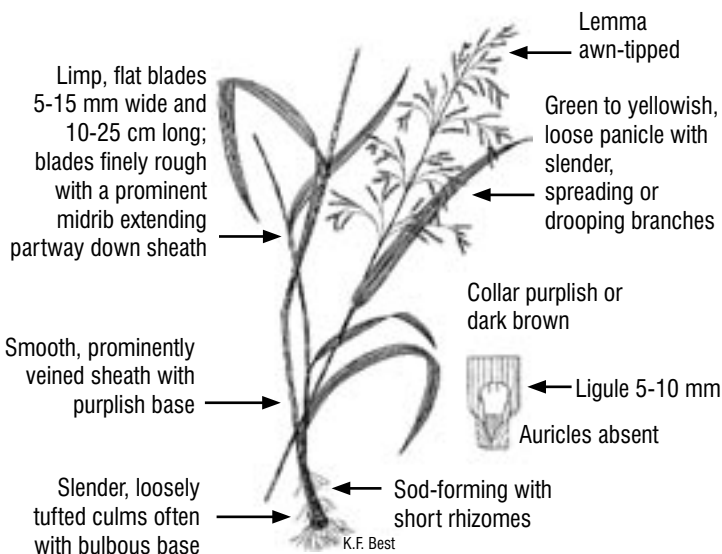
- Culm 30-60 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Open woods and clearings



Slender Wood Grass

Cinna latifolia

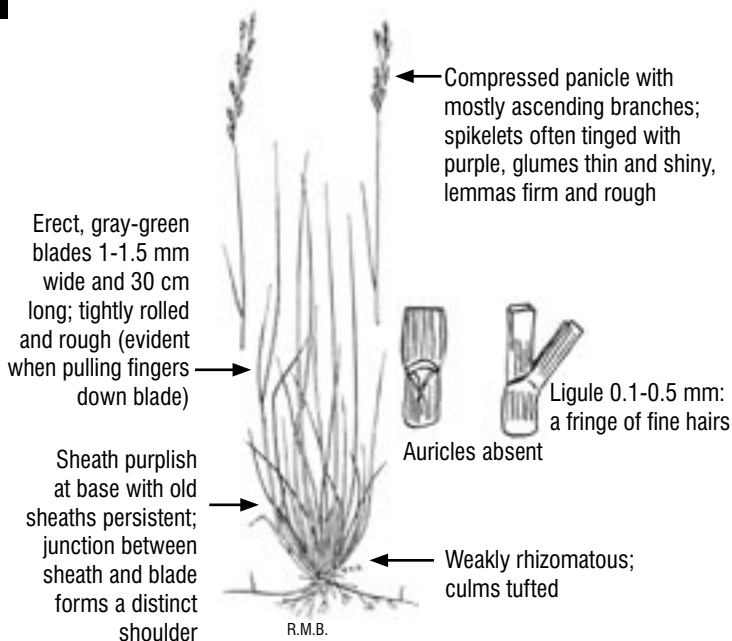
- Culm 60-150 cm, panicle 15-30 cm
- Moist forests



Plains Rough Fescue

Festuca hallii

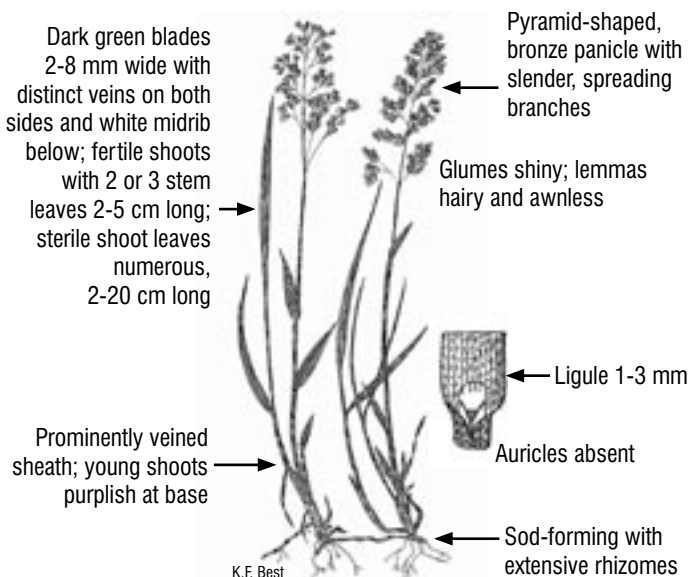
- Culm 20-60 cm, panicle 6-15 cm
- Fertile Dark Brown and Black soils, occasional on north-facing slopes in Brown soils
- Often confused with kentucky bluegrass (page 4)



Sweet Grass

Hierochloa odorata

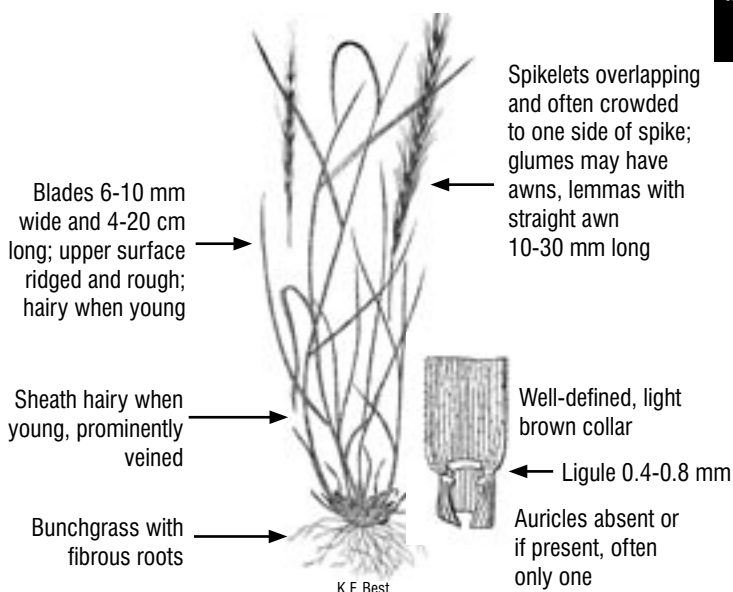
- Culm 30-60 cm, panicle 10-15 cm
- Moist prairie and wet sites
- Sweet smelling



Awned / Bearded Wheatgrass

Agropyron subsecundum

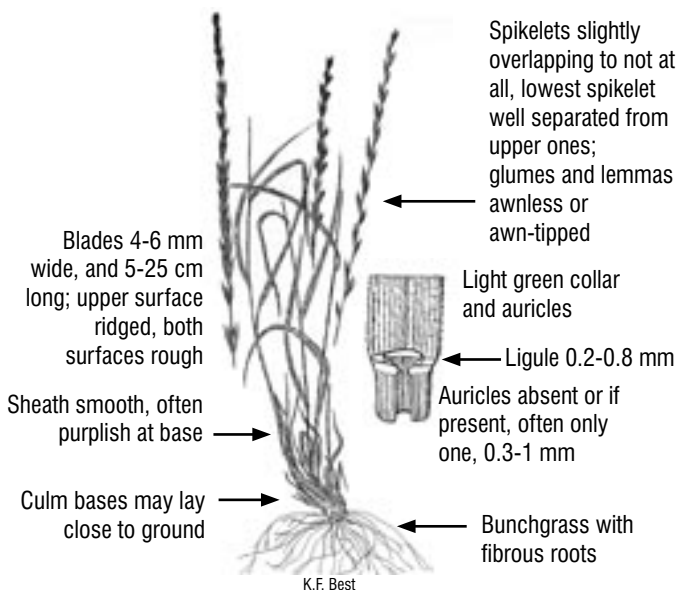
- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 5-20 cm, erect or slightly nodding
- Moist, well-drained, fertile soils



Slender Wheatgrass

Agropyron trachycaulum

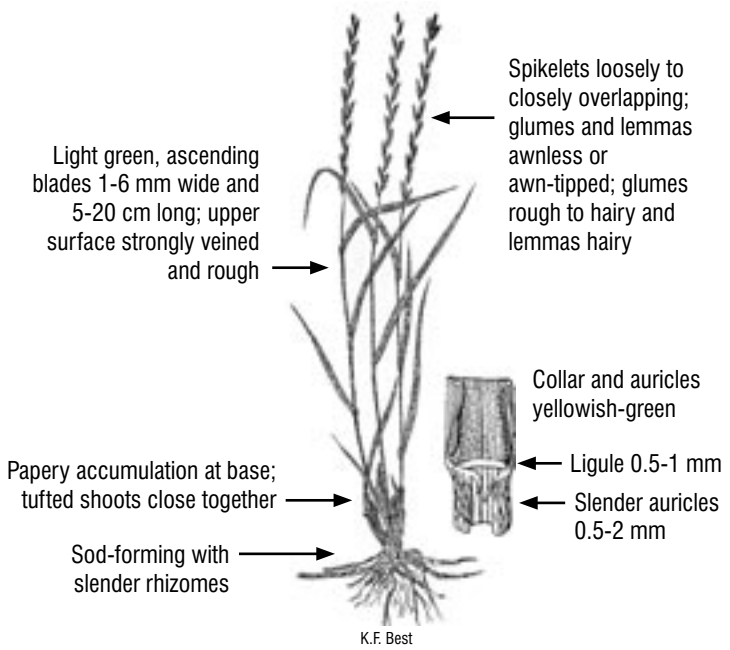
- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 10-25 cm, erect or slightly nodding
- Moist soils, tolerates salinity



Northern Wheatgrass

Agropyron dasystachyum

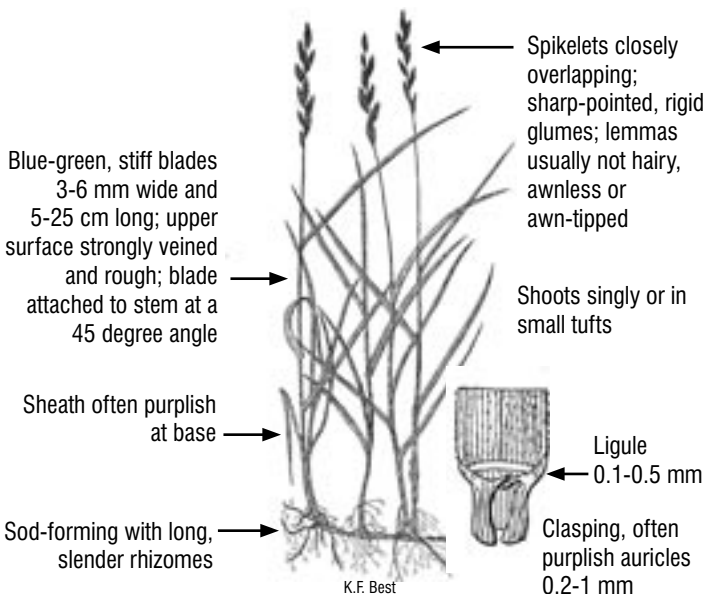
- Culm 40-70 cm, spike 6-15 cm
- Most common wheatgrass on the prairies



Western Wheatgrass / Bluejoint

Agropyron smithii

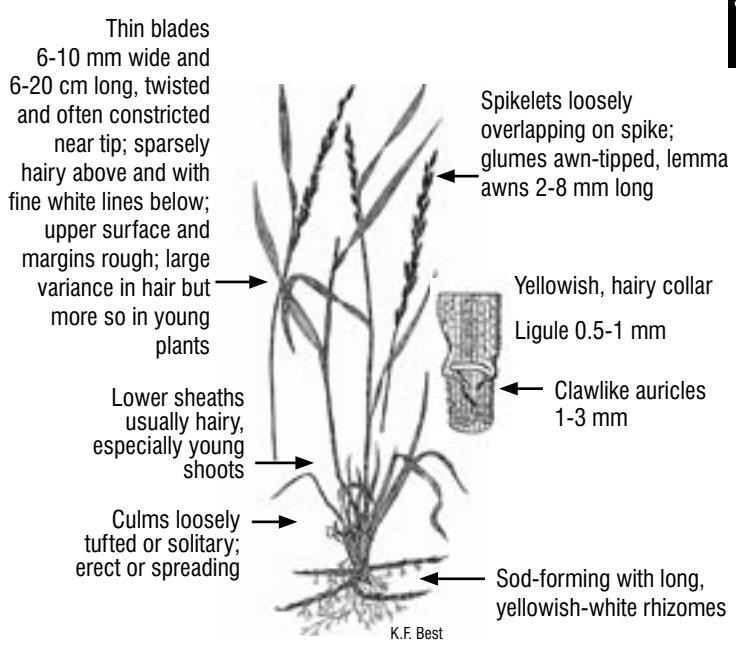
- Culm 30-60 cm, spike 7-15 cm
- Most common in moist, saline, and heavy soils



Quackgrass

Agropyron repens

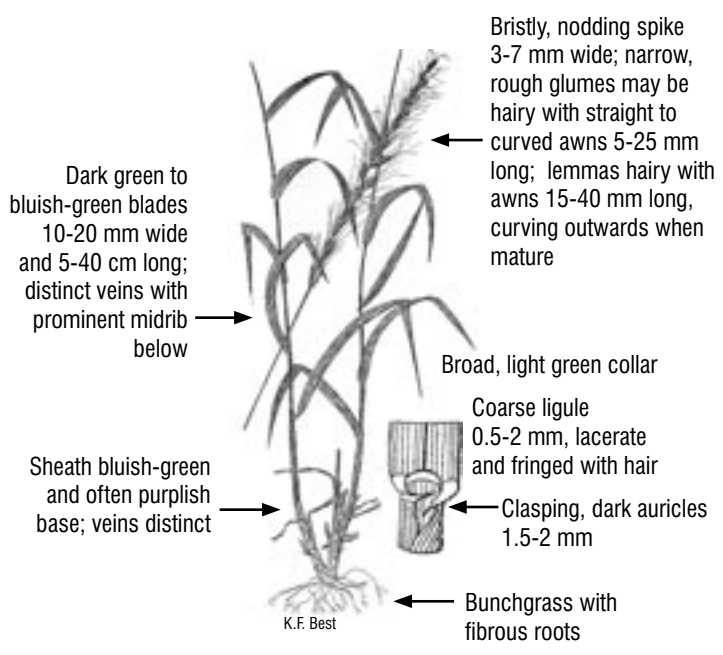
- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 5-15 cm
- Introduced, noxious weed
- Moist, fertile, often disturbed sites



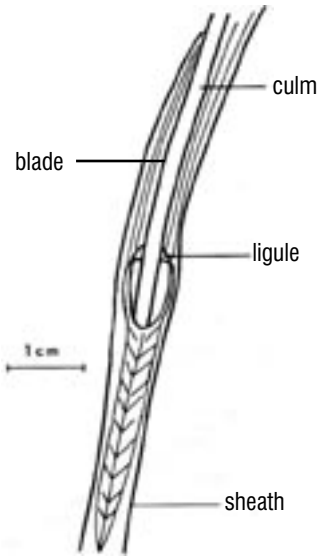
Canada Wildrye

Elymus canadensis

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



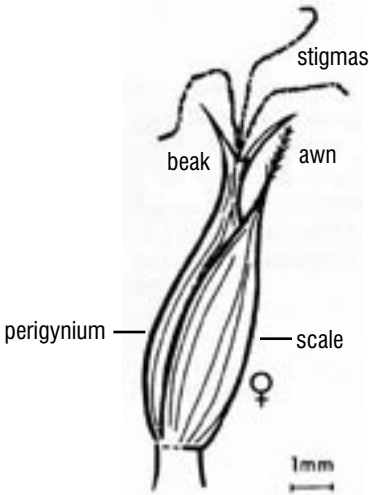
The Sedge Plant Parts



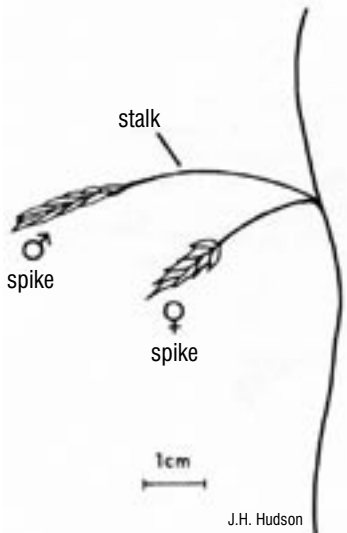
Leaf-sheath and blade.



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.

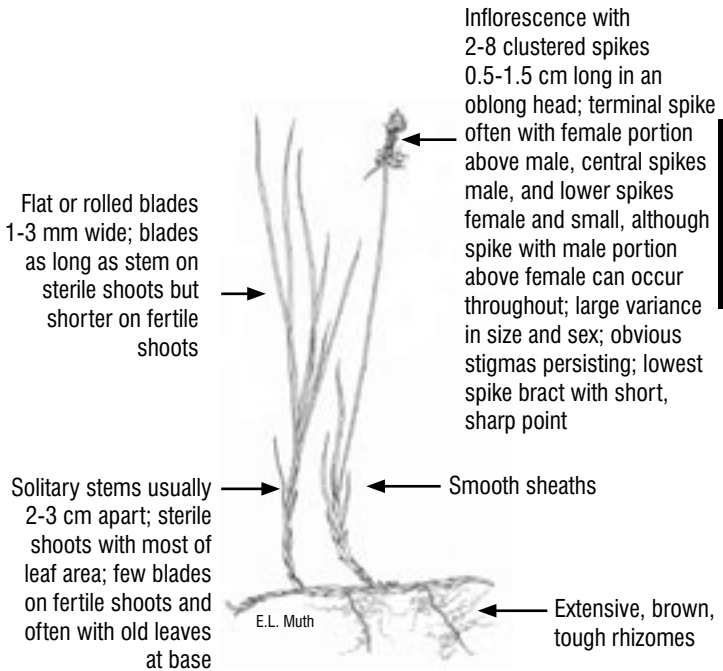
Distinguishing Characteristics of Sedges

- 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

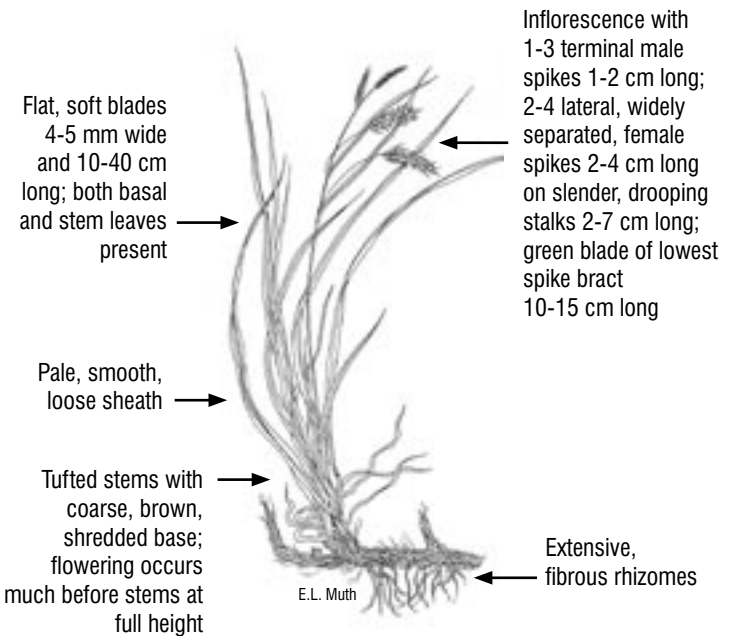
- Culm 20-60 cm, spike 2-4 cm
- Dry, open, sandy sites in Boreal



Sprengel's Sedge

Carex sprengelli

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

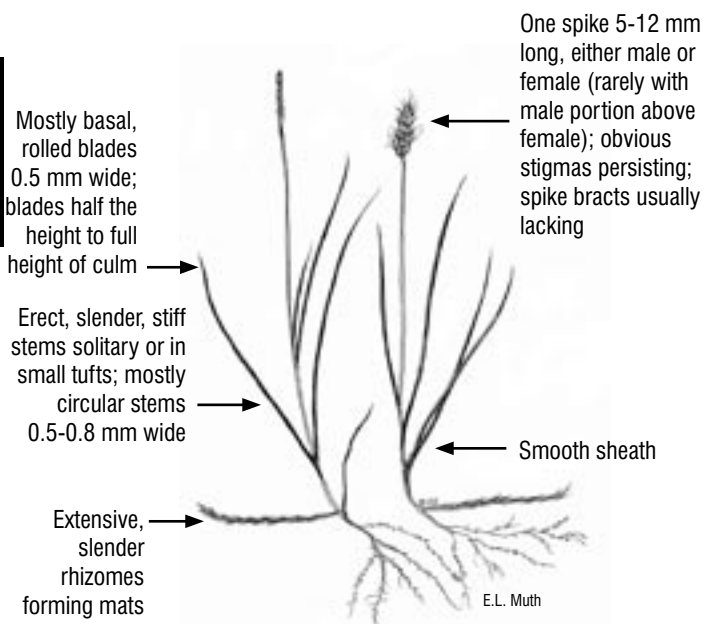


Northern Bog Sedge

Carex gynocrates

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

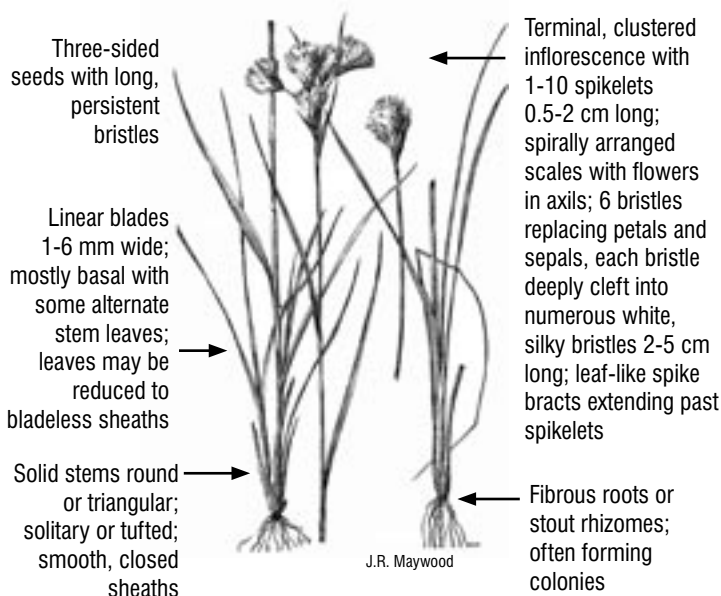
GRASS-LIKES



Cotton Grass

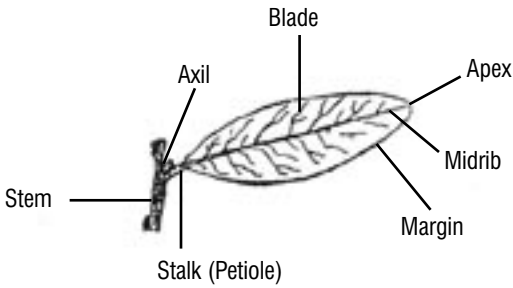
Eriophorum species

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

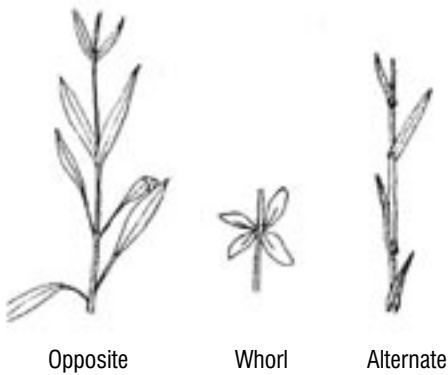


Leaf Morphology of Forbs and Shrubs

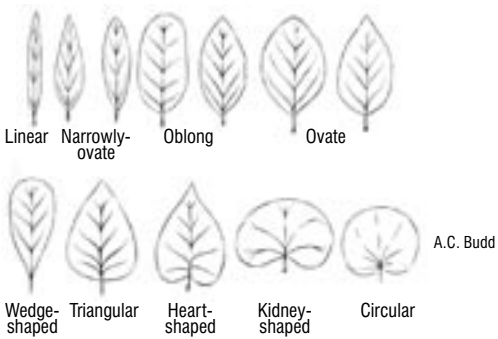
Leaf Parts



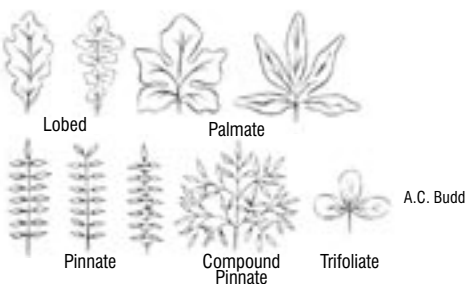
Leaf Arrangements



Examples of Simple Leaves



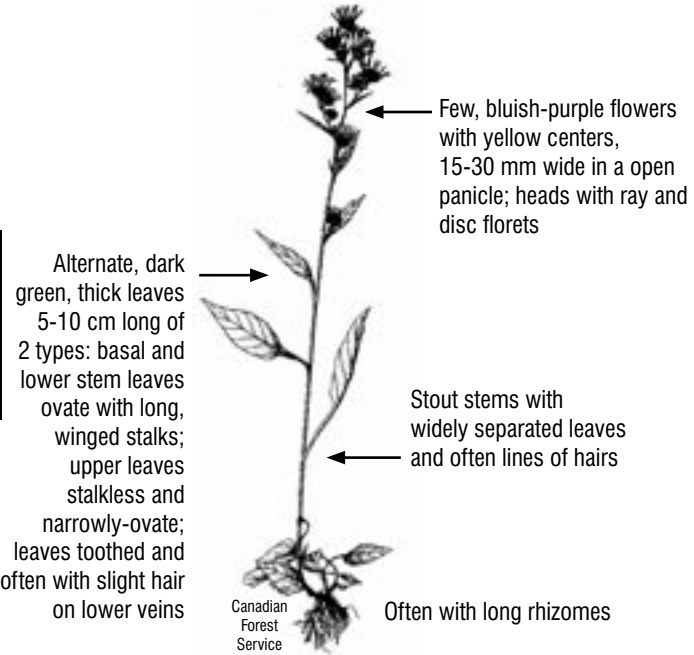
Examples of Divided Leaves



Lindley's Aster

Aster ciliolatus

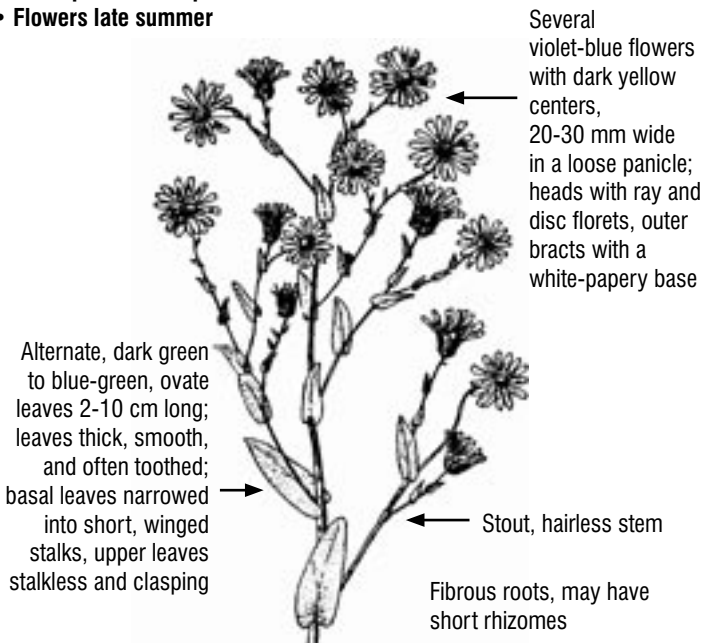
- 30-75 cm tall
- Open woodlands, clearings, and moist prairie
- Flowers late summer



Smooth Aster

Aster laevis

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



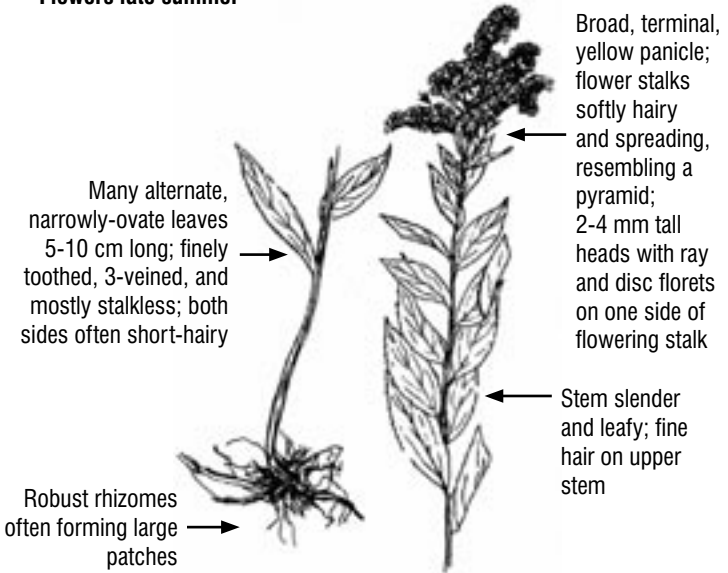
Similar species: Showy Aster (*A. conspicuus*)

- 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



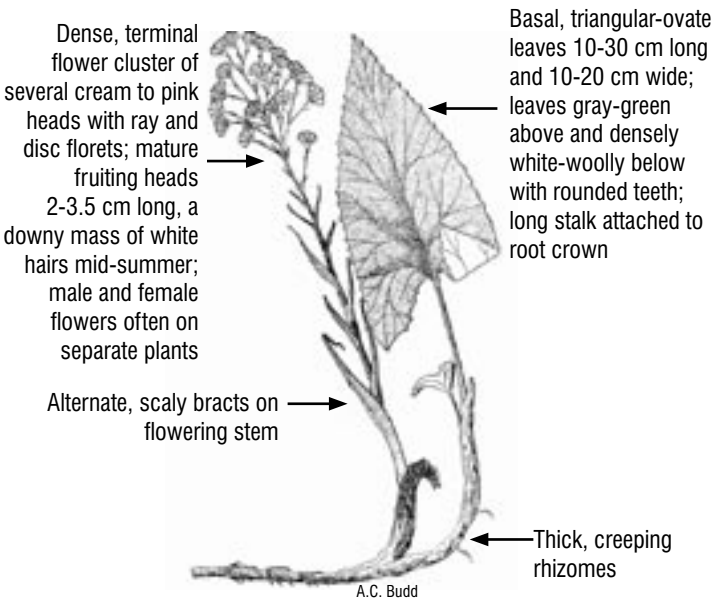
Similar species: Velvety Goldenrod (*S. mollis*)

- 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



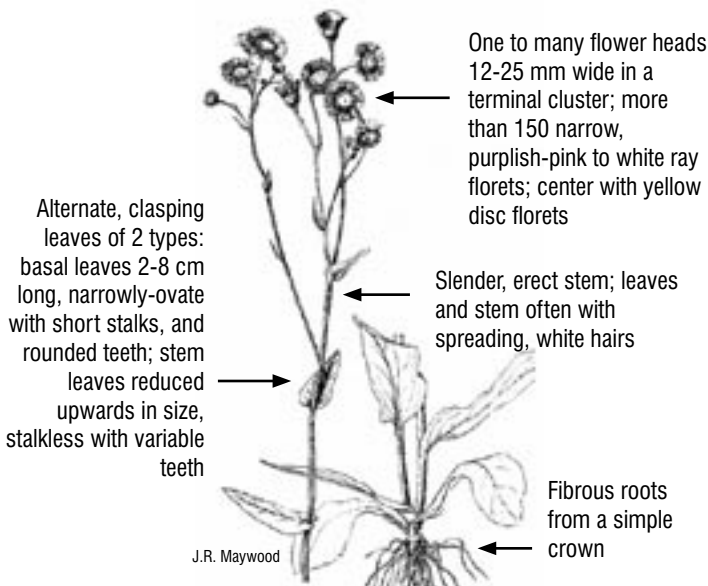
Similar species: Palmate-leaved Colt's Foot (*P. palmatus*)

- 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



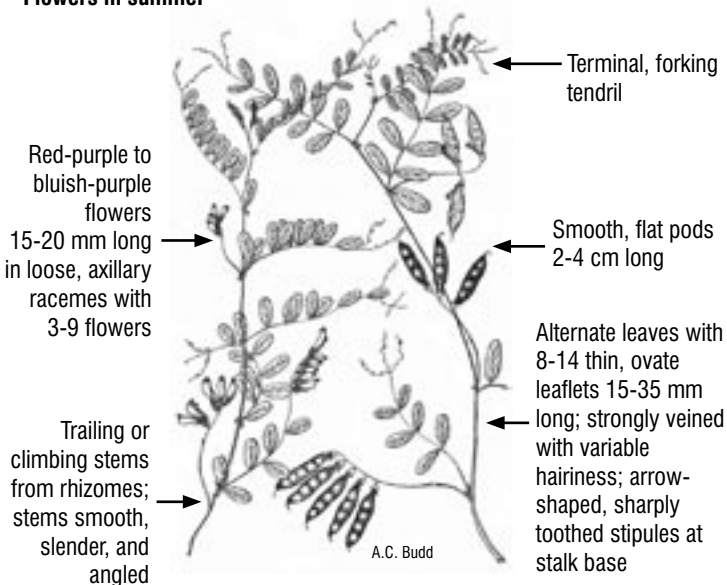
Similar species: Smooth Fleabane (*E. glabellus*)

- 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

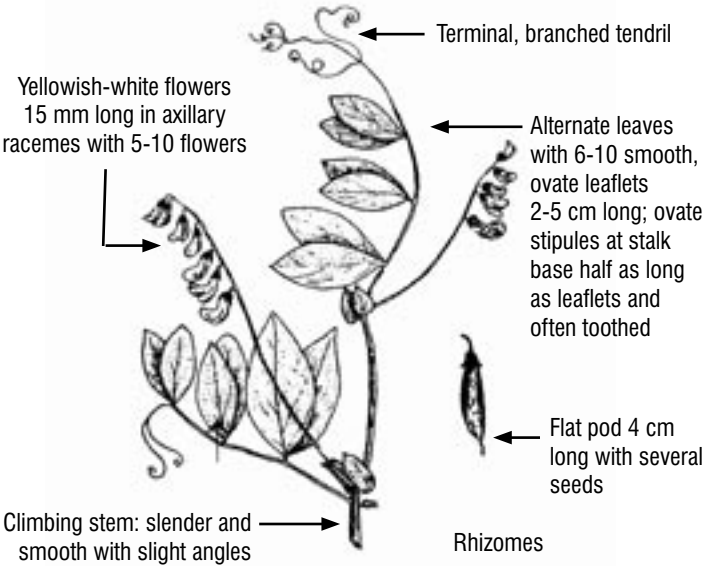


Plants in open grassland often have narrower leaflets and may be a separate species: *Vicia sparsifolia*

Cream-coloured Vetchling

Lathyrus ochroleucus

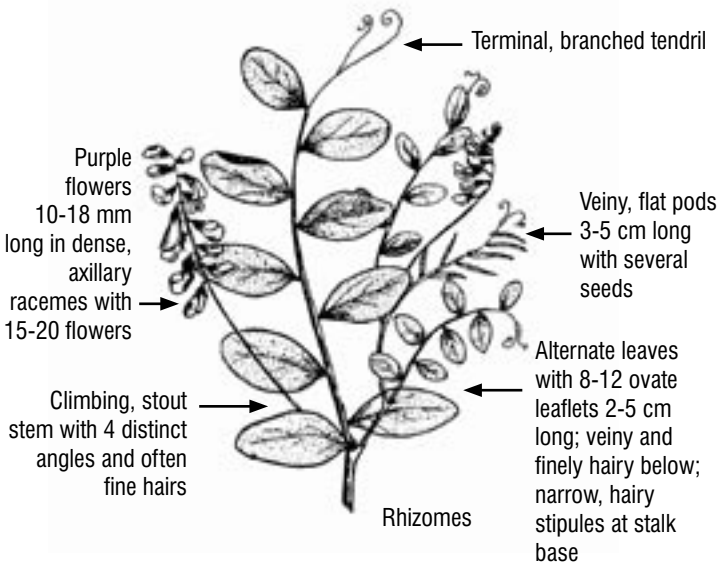
- 30-100 cm long
- Moist, open woods, clearings, and thickets
- Flowers late spring and summer



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

FORBS

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

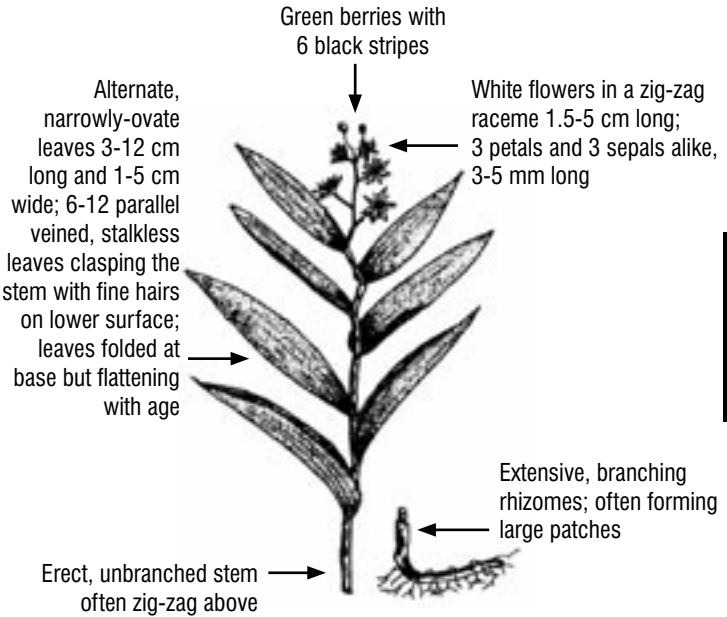
Brown, membranous stipules often united

A.C. Budd

Star-flowered Solomon's Seal

Smilacina stellata

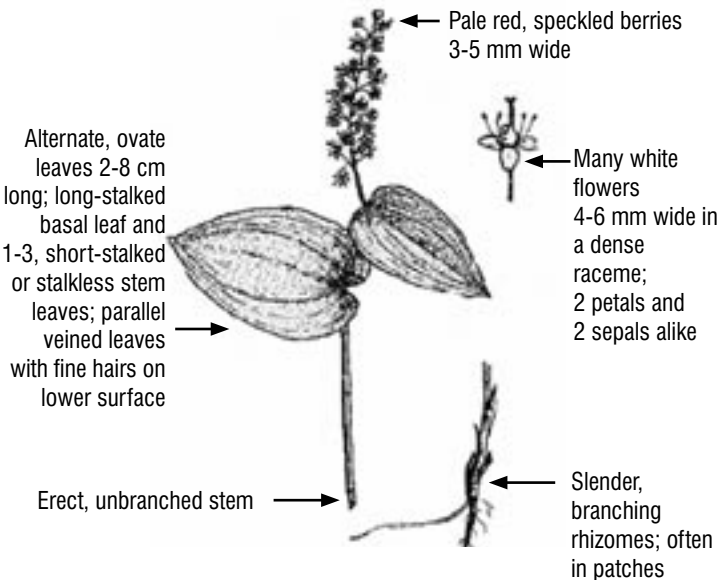
- 15-50 cm tall
- Open woods, moist grasslands, and shores of marshes
- Flowers in spring



Two-leaved Solomon's Seal

Maianthemum canadense

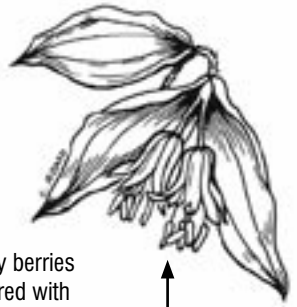
- 5-15 cm tall
- Rich soil in moist woods
- Flowers in spring



Fairybells

Disporum trachycarpum

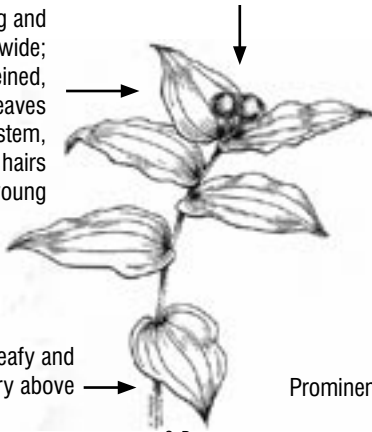
- 30-60 cm tall
- Moist woods, ravines, and coulees
- Flowers in spring



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

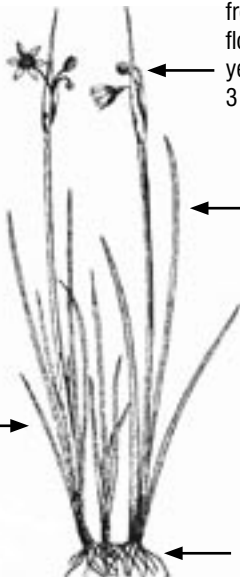
Blue-eyed Grass

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

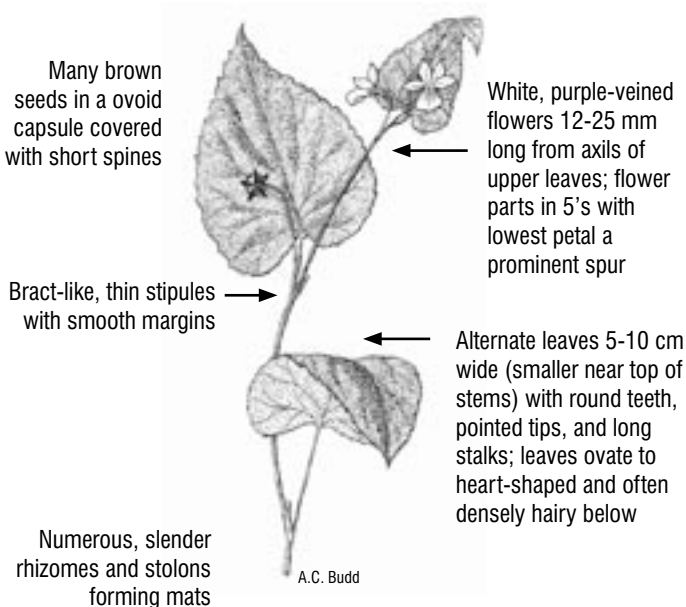
Grass-like, linear, and bright green leaves 1-3.5 mm wide from each side of plant base

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

Western Canada Violet

Viola rugulosa

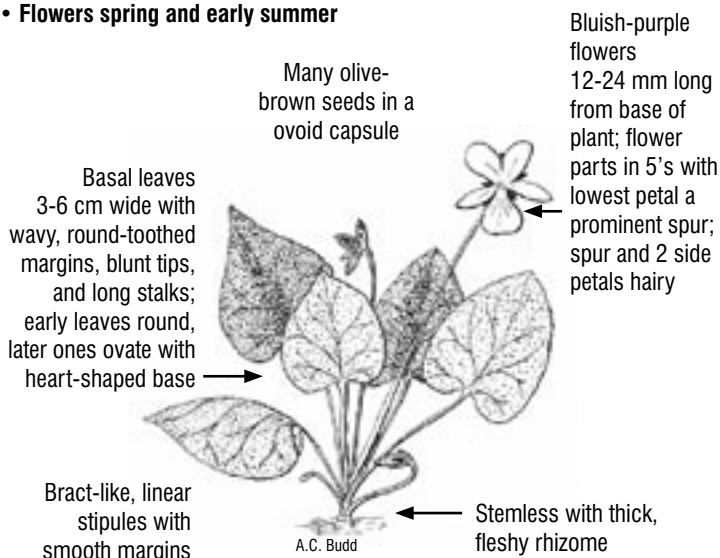
- 20-60 cm tall
- Shady woodlands and moist meadows
- Flowers late spring and summer



Northern Bog Violet

Viola cucullata

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



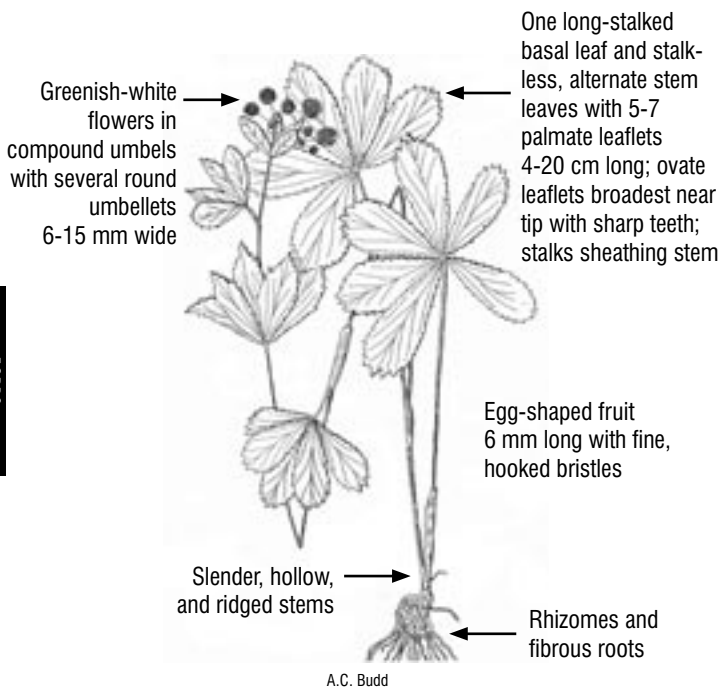
Similar species: Early Blue Violet (*V. adunca*)

- 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

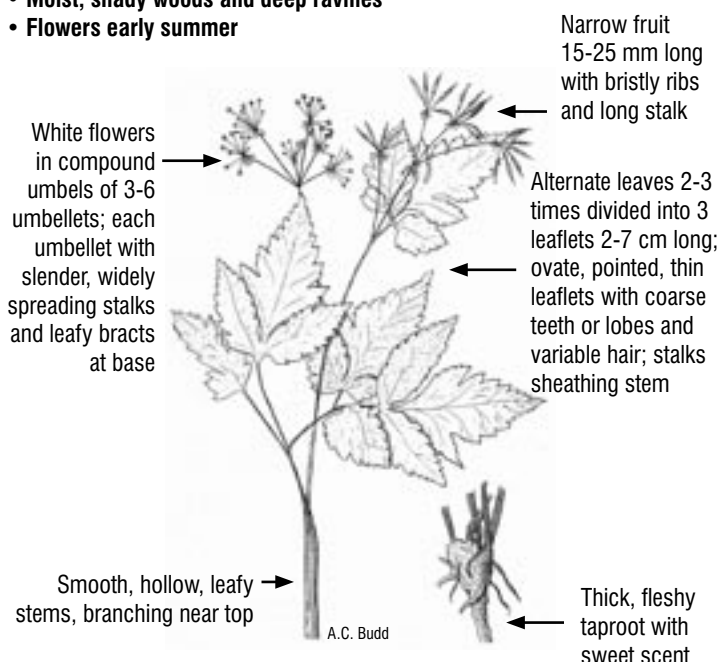
- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist woods and streambanks
- Flowers early summer



Smooth Sweet Cicely

Osmorhiza aristata

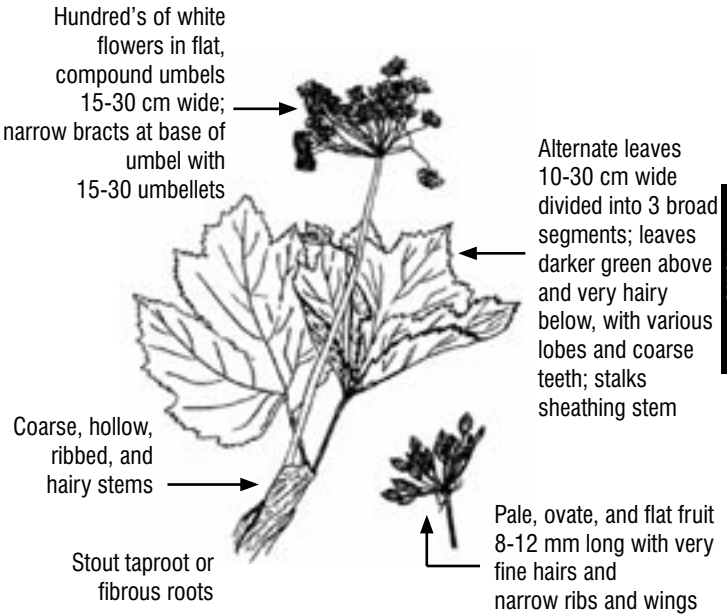
- 30-90 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods and deep ravines
- Flowers early summer



Cow Parsnip

Heracleum lanatum

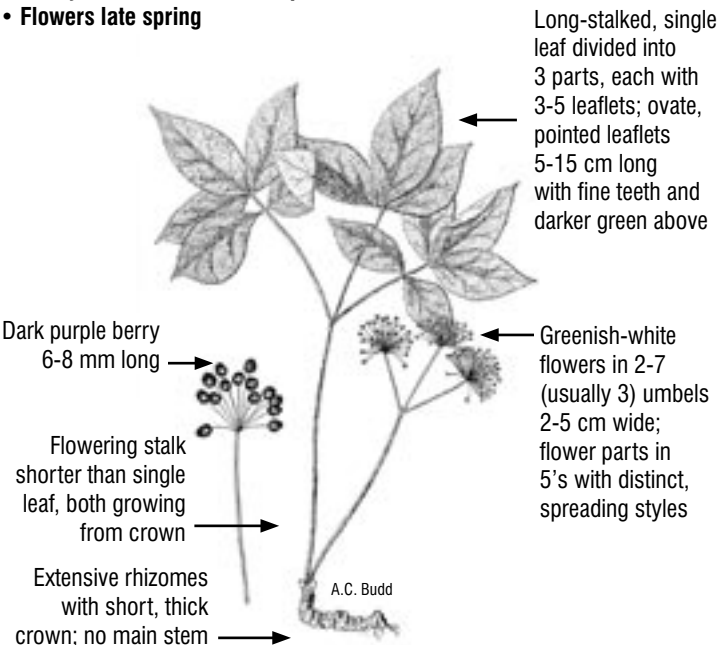
- 1-2.5 m tall
- Moist woods, clearings, and streambanks
- Flowers in summer
- Unpleasant odor



Wild Sarsaparilla

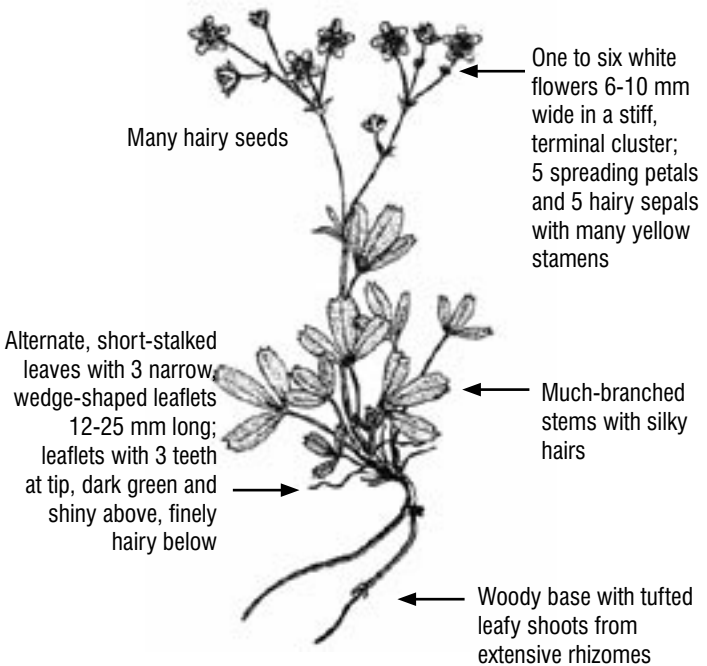
Aralia nudicaulis

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



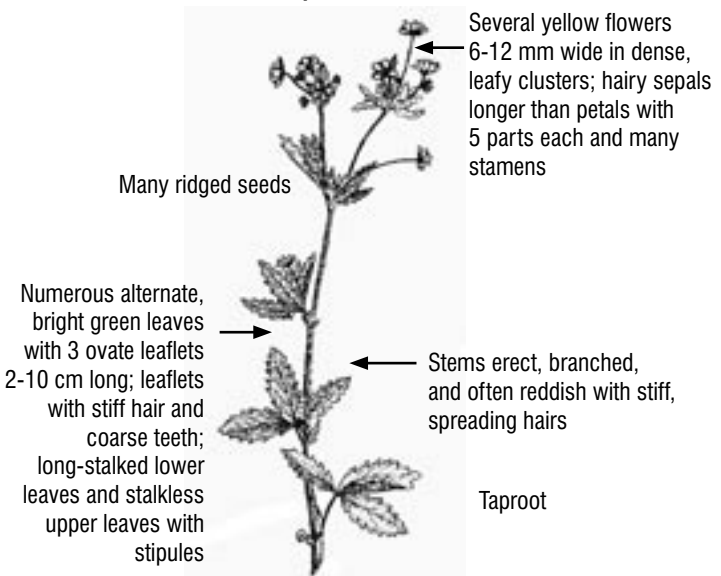
Three-toothed Cinquefoil *Potentilla tridentata*

- 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



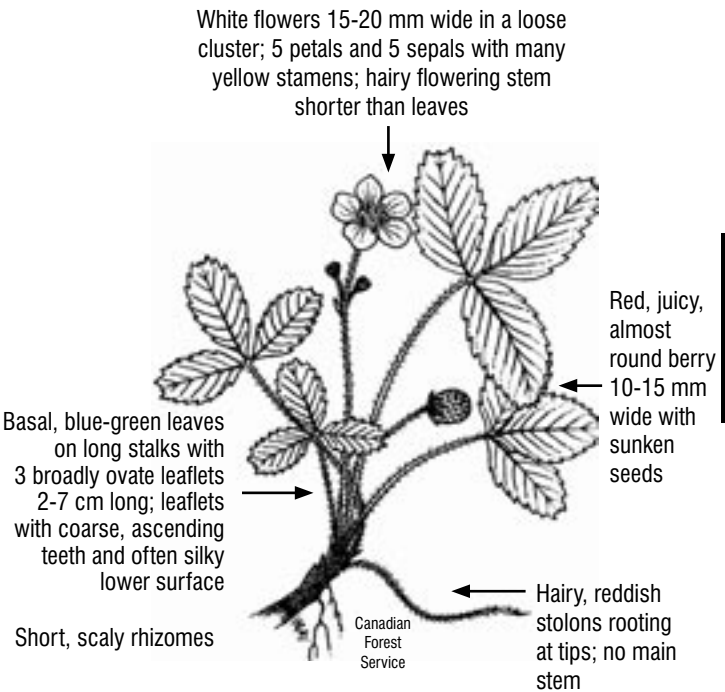
Similar species: Graceful Cinquefoil (*P. gracilis*)

- 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

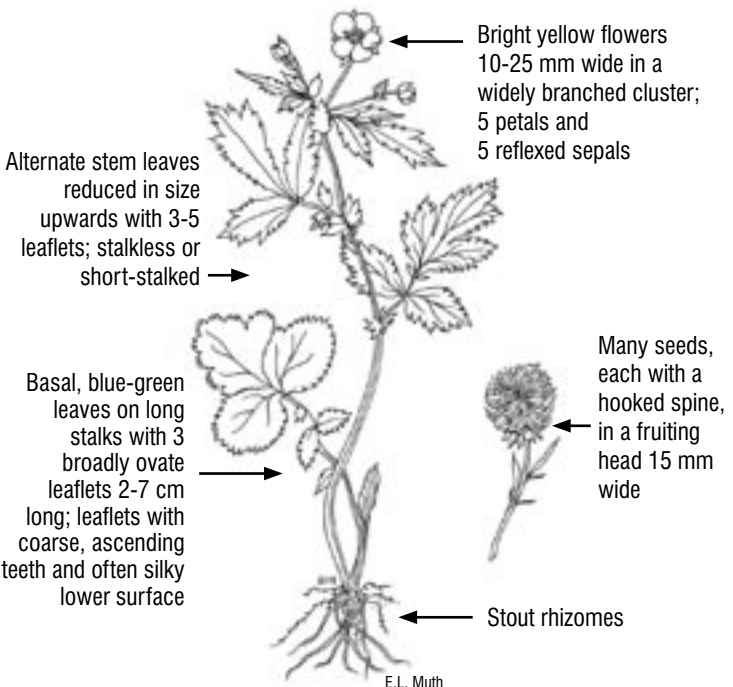
- 5-15 cm long
- Low areas in prairie, open woods, and moist sites
- Flowers spring to early summer



Yellow Avens

Geum aleppicum

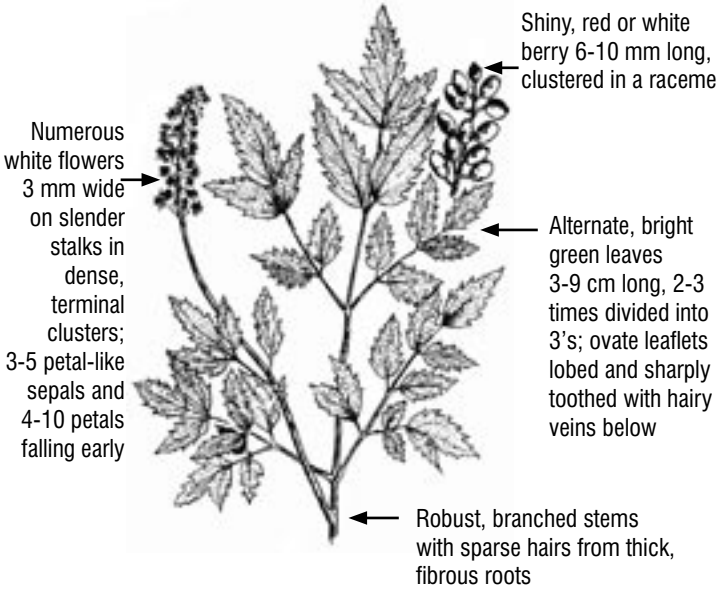
- 40-120 cm long
- Moist sites, meadows, and open woods
- Flowers early summer



Baneberry

Actaea rubra

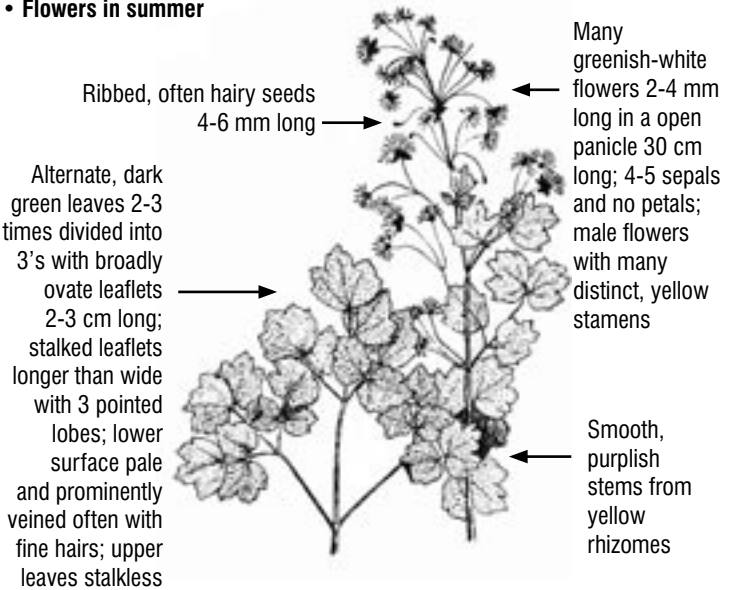
- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods and ravines
- Flowers early summer
- Poisonous (especially berries)



Tall Meadow Rue

Thalictrum dasycarpum

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



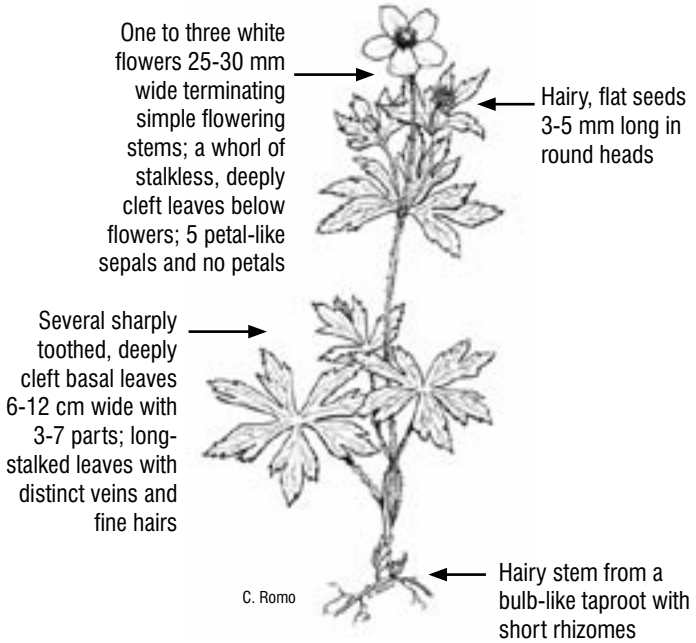
Similar species: Veiny Meadow Rue (*T. venulosum*)

- 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

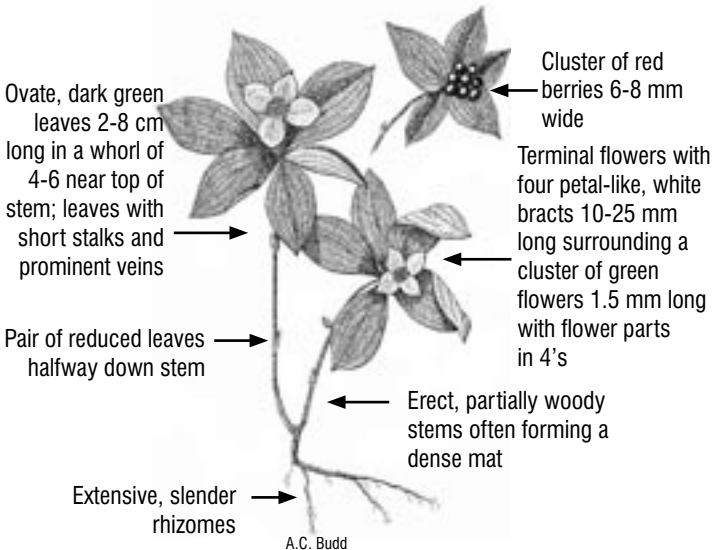


FORBS

Bunchberry

Cornus canadensis

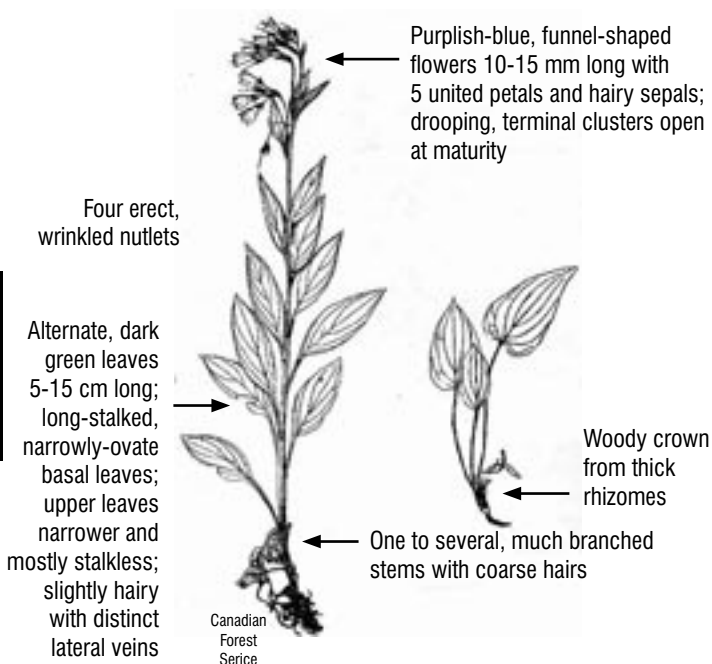
- 5-15 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods
- Flowers early summer
- Evergreen leaves



Tall Lungwort / Bluebell

Mertensia paniculata

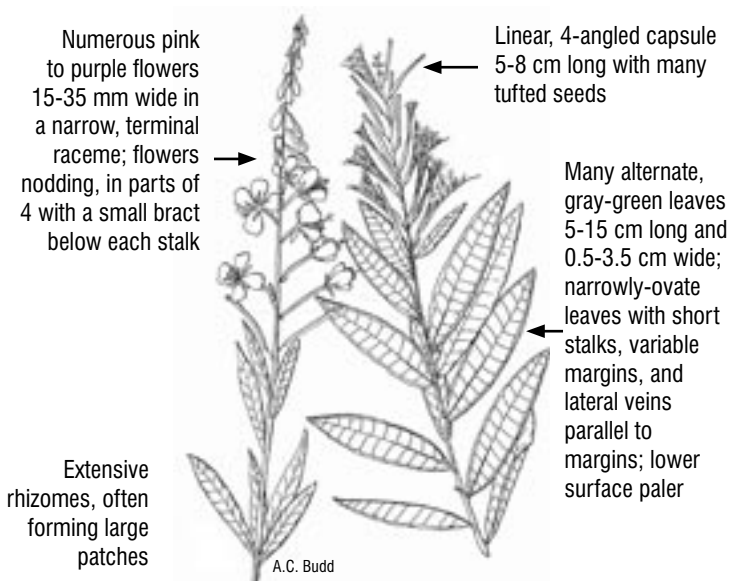
- 30-70 cm tall
- Moist woods and shady streambanks
- Flowers early summer



Fireweed

Epilobium angustifolium

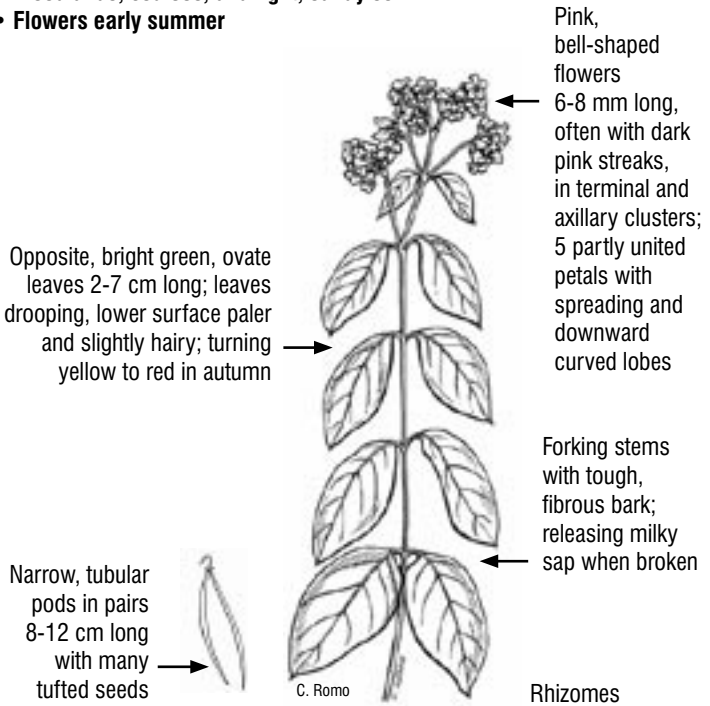
- 30-300 cm tall
- Open woods, disturbed sites, and recently burnt areas
- Flowers in summer



Spreading Dogbane

Apocynum androsaemifolium

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

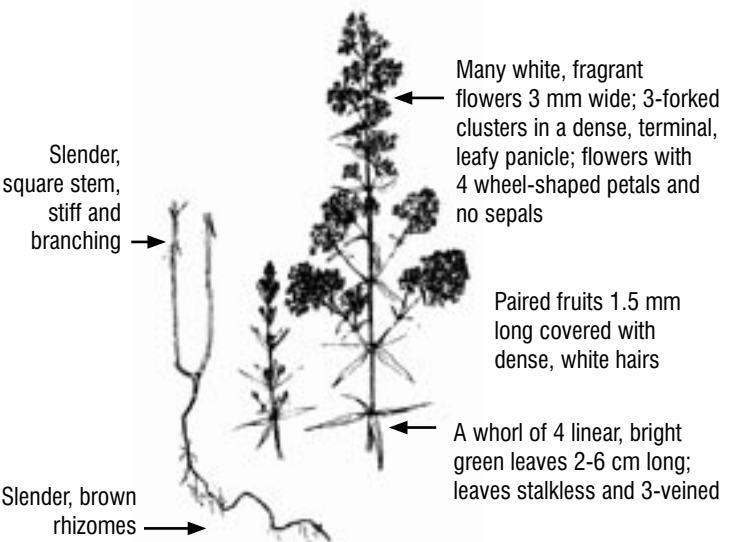


FORBS

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

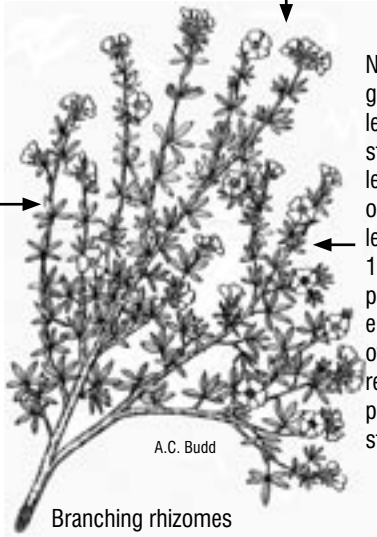
Shrubby Cinquefoil

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

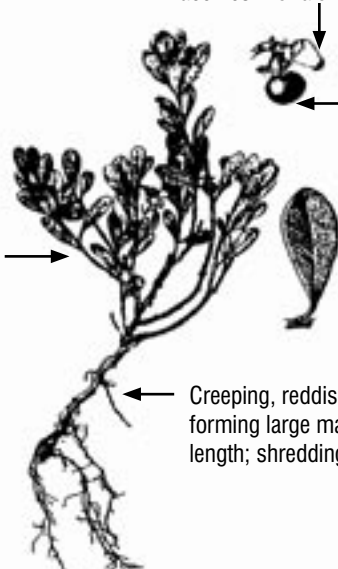
Bearberry

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

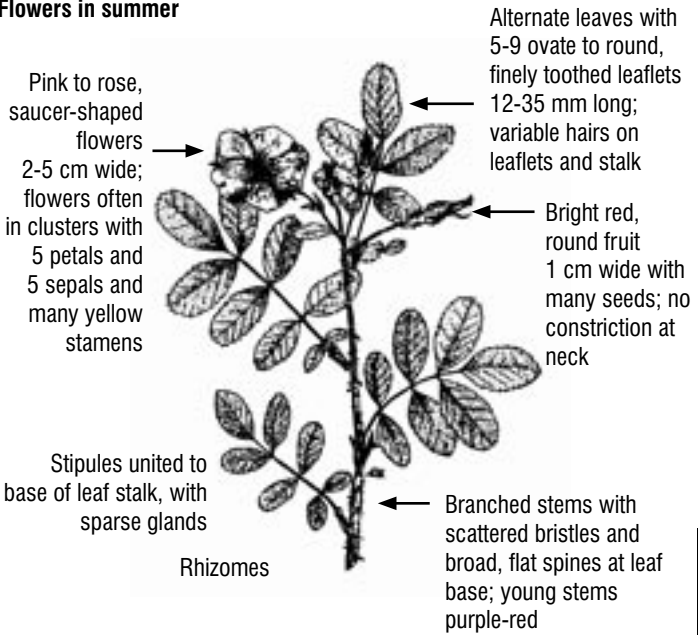
Alternate, dark green, shiny, leathery leaves 1-3 cm long; ovate leaves wider near the rounded tip and on short stalks; older leaves reddish-brown



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*)

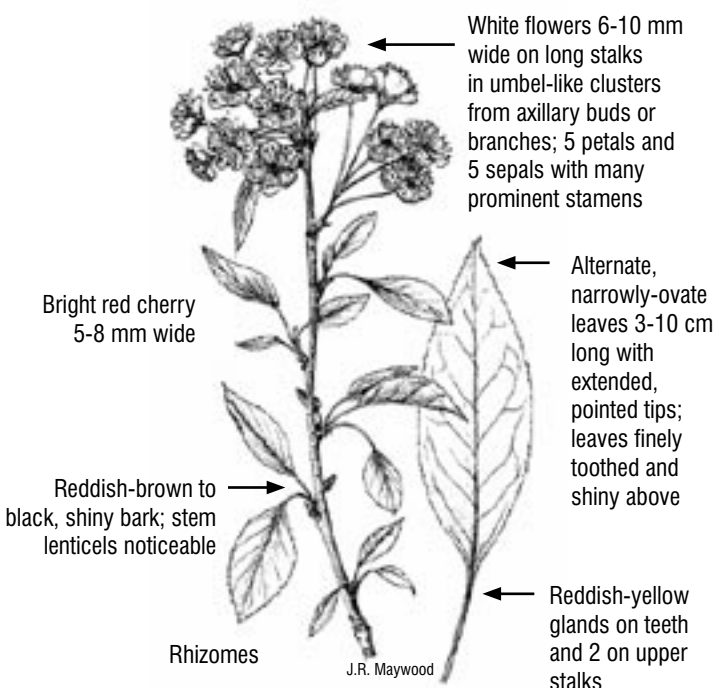
- 30-120 cm; weak stem bristles
- 3-7 coarsely toothed leaflets 12-50 mm long
- solitary, pink flowers
- fruit constricted at neck

SHRUBS

Pincherry

Prunus pensylvanica

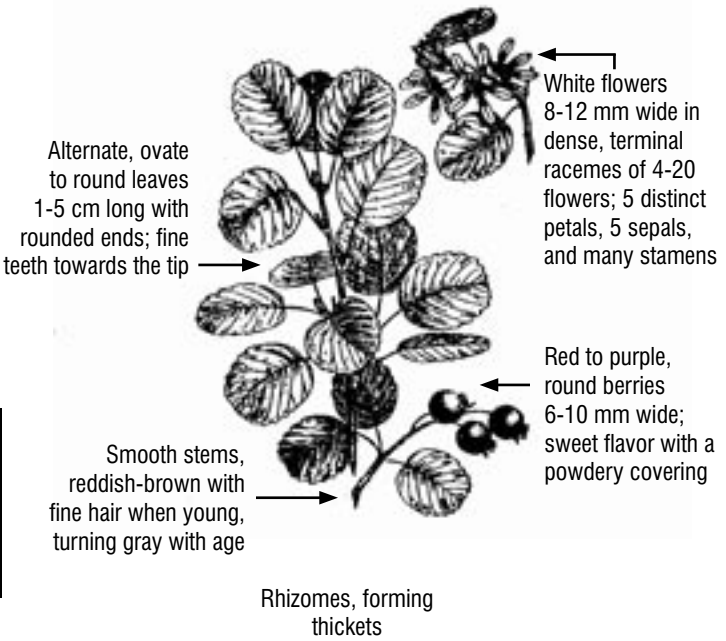
- 1-8 m tall
- Open woods, clearings, ravines, and often sandy soil
- Flowers late spring



Saskatoon

Amelanchier alnifolia

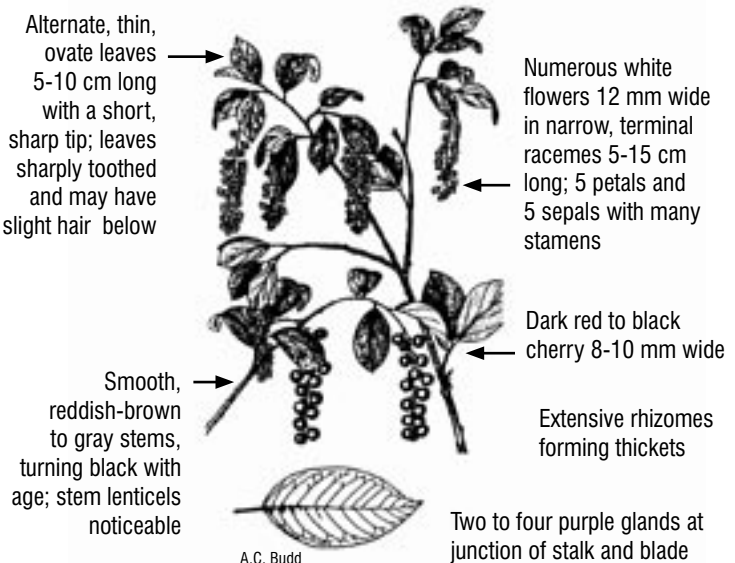
- 0.5-6 m tall
- Coulees, thickets, and open woods
- Flowers late spring



Chokecherry

Prunus virginiana

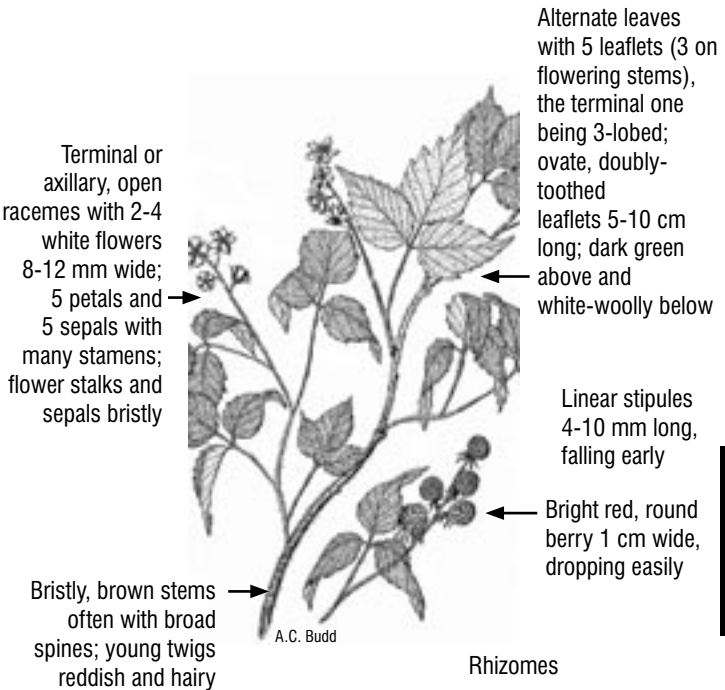
- 1-6 m tall
- Coulees, open woods, riverbanks, and sand hills
- Flowers late spring



Wild Red Raspberry

Rubus idaeus

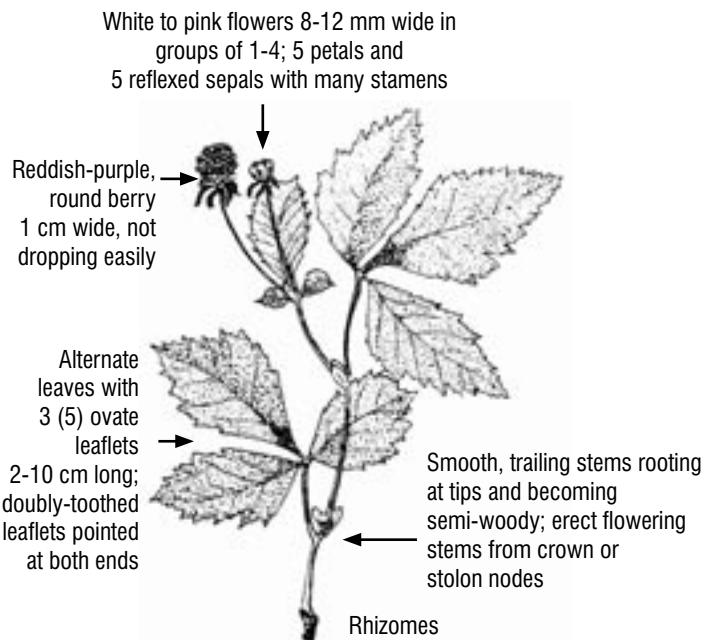
- 1-2 m tall
- Moist woods, thickets, riverbanks, and shady, disturbed sites
- Flowers early summer
- Perennial with biennial stems



Dewberry

Rubus pubescens

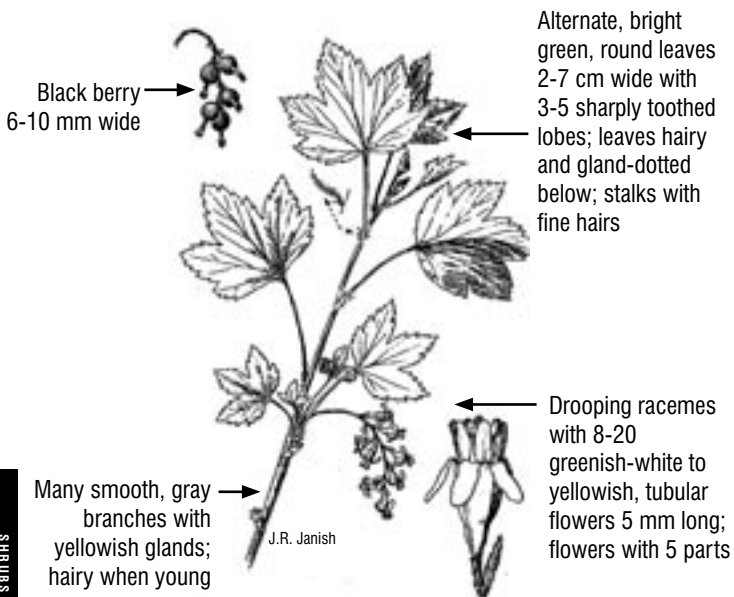
- 10-100 cm long
- Moist woods, thickets, and clearings
- Flowers early summer



Wild Black Currant

Ribes americanum

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



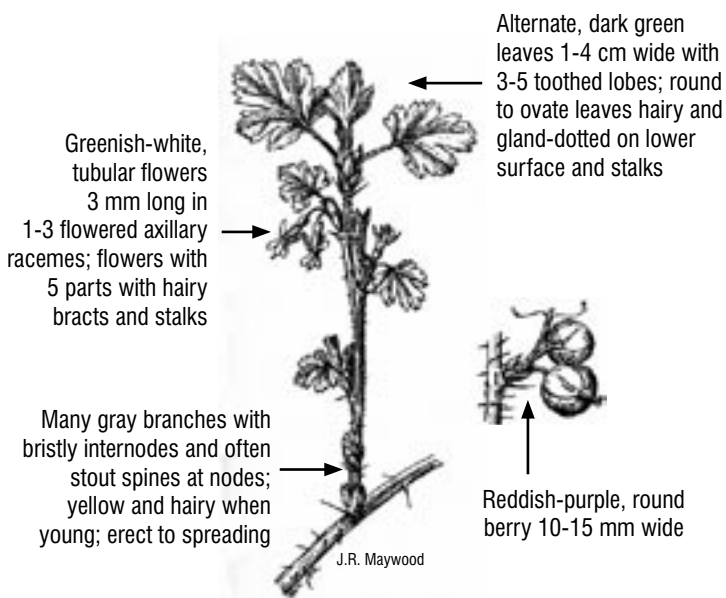
Similar species: Northern Black Currant (*R. hudsonianum*)

- 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

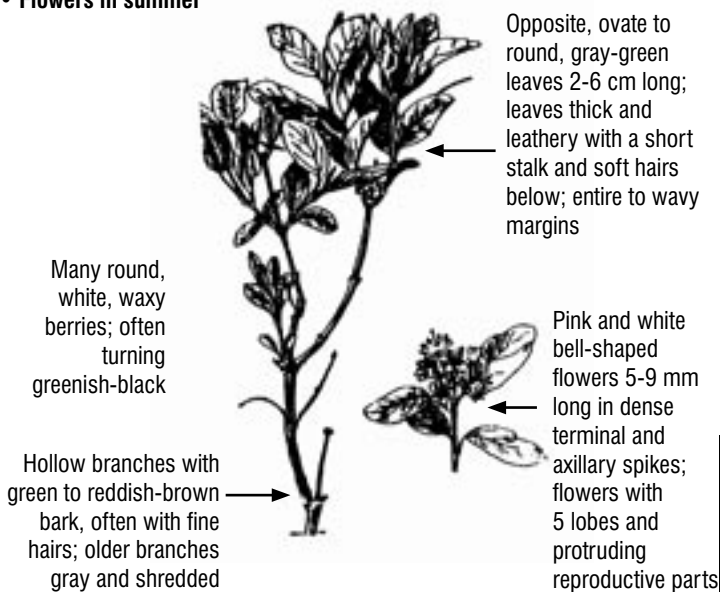
- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist woods, thickets, and coulees
- Flowers late spring



Western Snowberry / Buckbrush

Symphoricarpos occidentalis

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

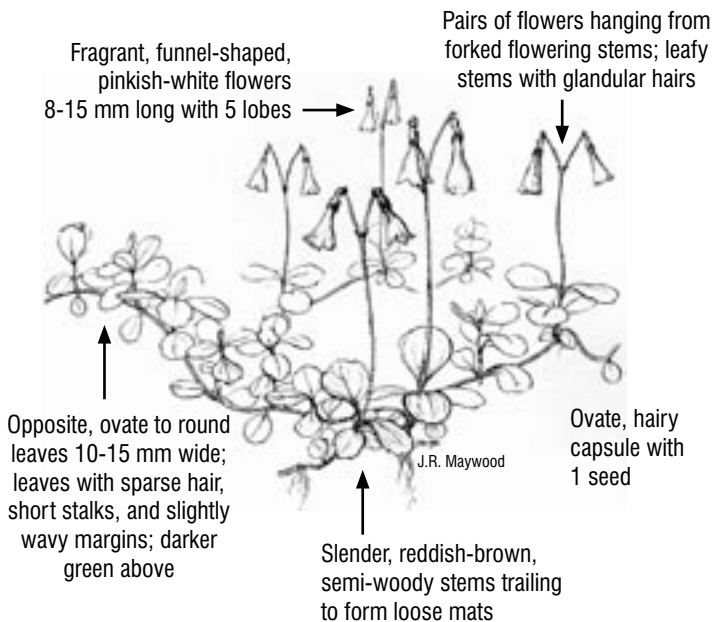


SHRUBS

Twinflower

Linnaea borealis

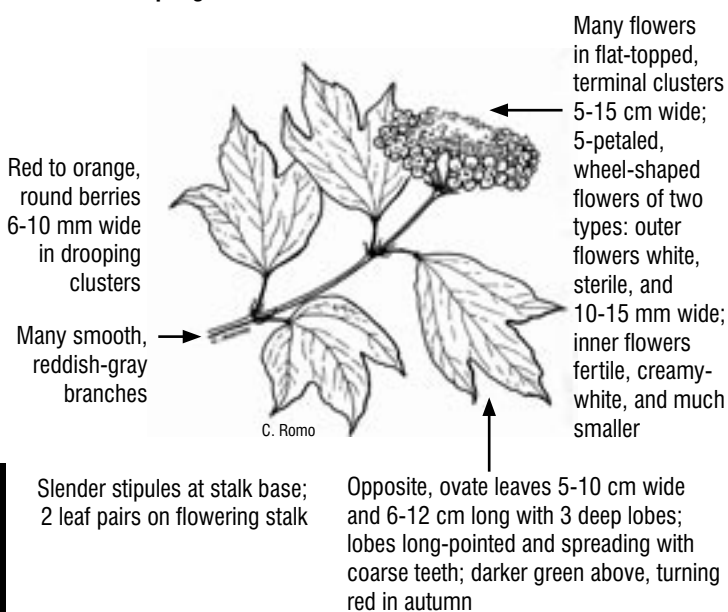
- 15-75 cm long, 3-10 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods; decaying tree trunks
- Flowers early summer
- Evergreen



High-bush Cranberry

Viburnum opulus

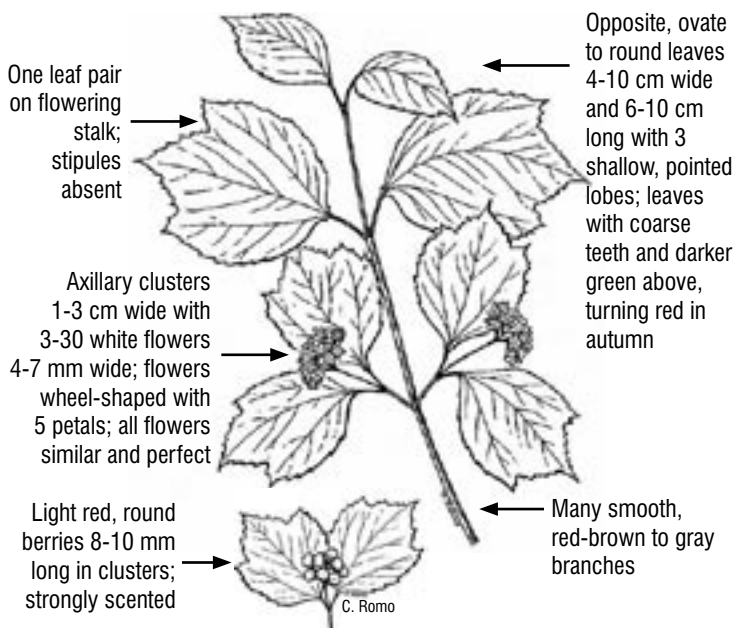
- 1-4 m tall
- Moist woods and thickets
- Flowers late spring



Low-bush Cranberry

Viburnum edule

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



Canada Buffaloberry

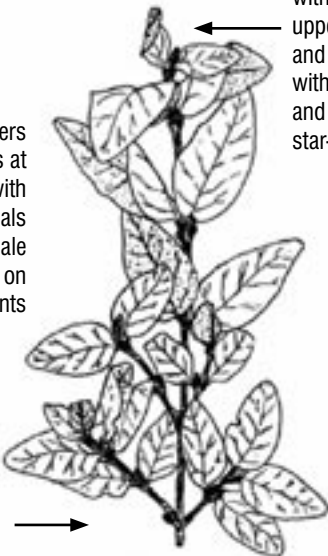
Shepherdia canadensis

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

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

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

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

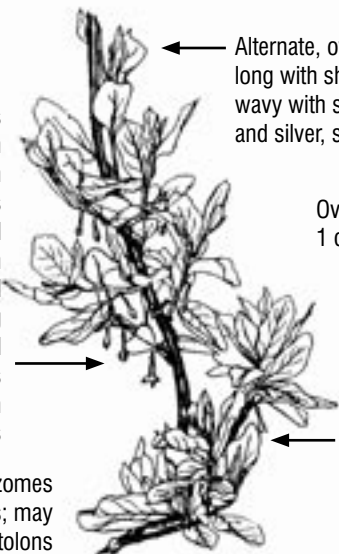
Funnel-shaped, hanging flowers 1-1.5 cm long in clusters of 2-3 in leaf axils; flowers silvery outside and yellow inside with 4 sepal lobes and no petals; strong fragrance; male and female flowers may be on separate plants

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

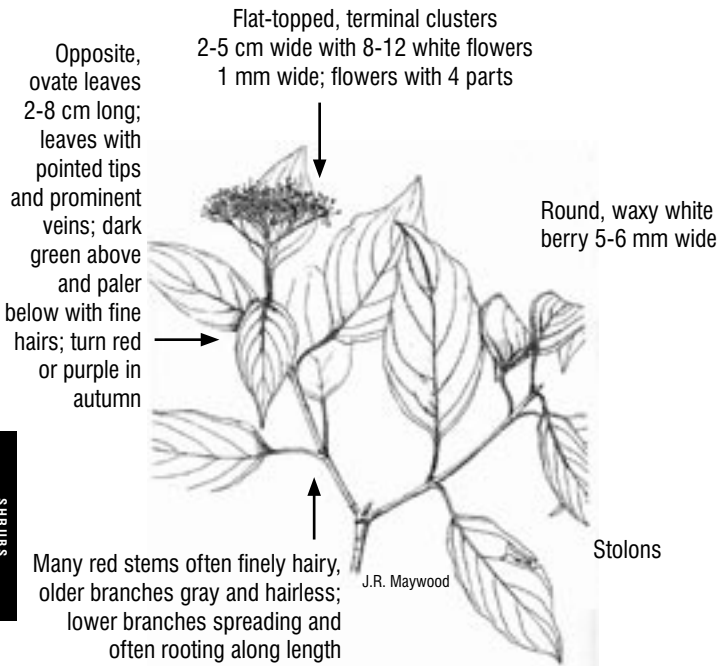
Extensive rhizomes forming colonies; may produce stolons

Brown twigs with small scales; gray-brown with age



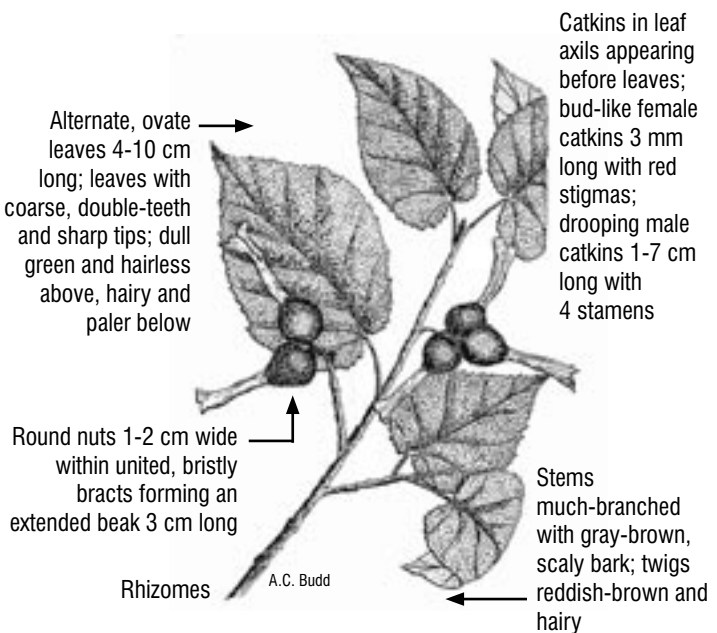
Red-Osier Dogwood *Cornus stolonifera*

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



Beaked Hazlenut *Corylus cornuta*

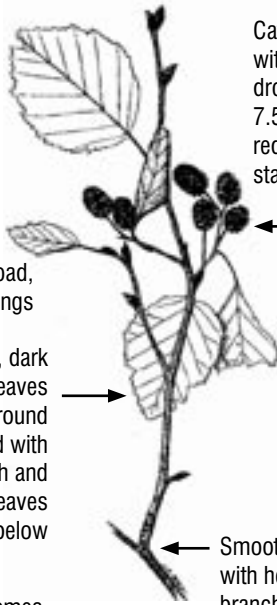
- 1-3 m tall
- Moist woods and thickets
- Flowers in spring



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

SHRUBS

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

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

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

Erect to spreading

Canadian Forest Service

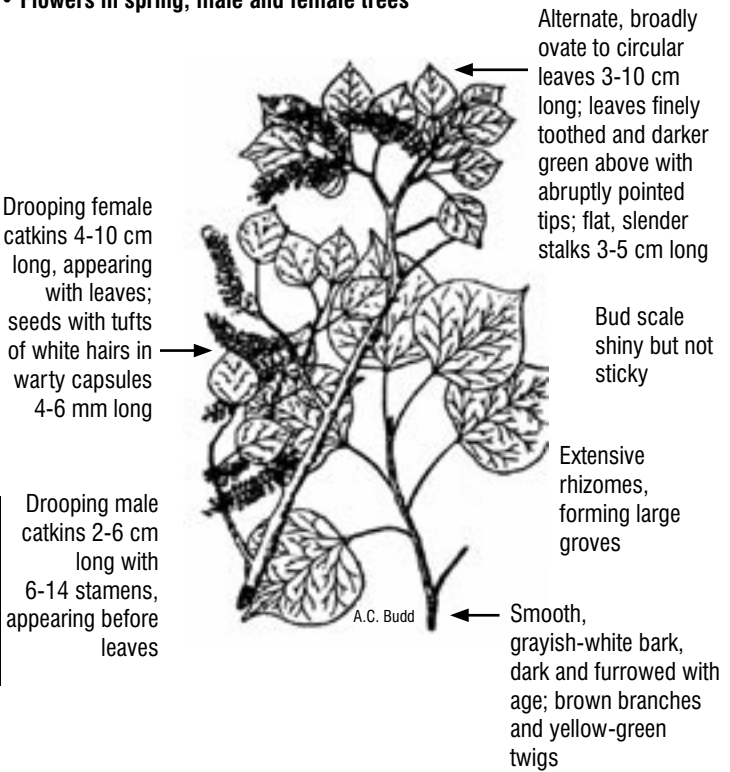
Similar species: Swamp Birch (*B. glandulifera*)

- 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

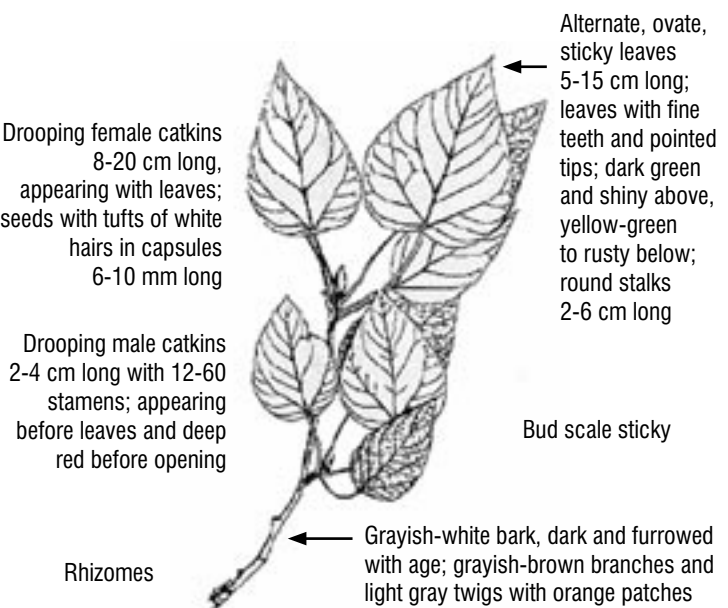
- 3-30 m tall
- Moist sites and depressions in prairies; parkland and forest
- Flowers in spring; male and female trees



Balsam Poplar

Populus balsamifera

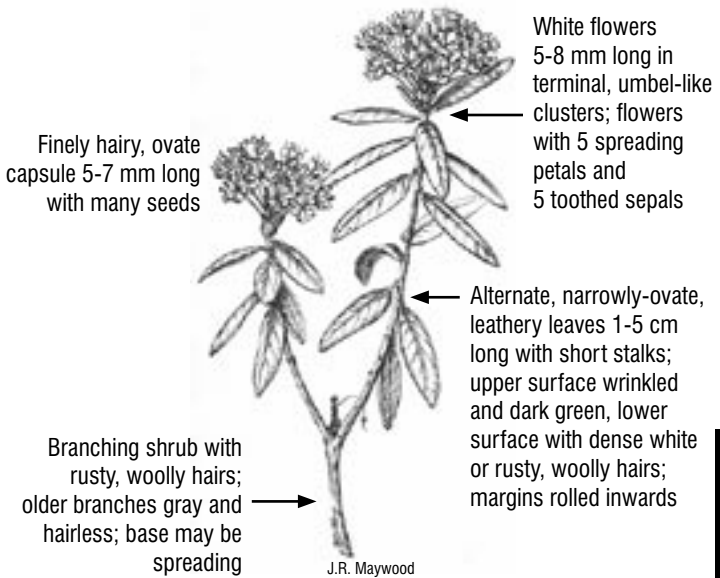
- 10-25 m tall
- Riverbanks, lakes, coulees, and moist upland sites
- Flowers in spring; male and female trees



Labrador Tea

Ledum groenlandicum

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

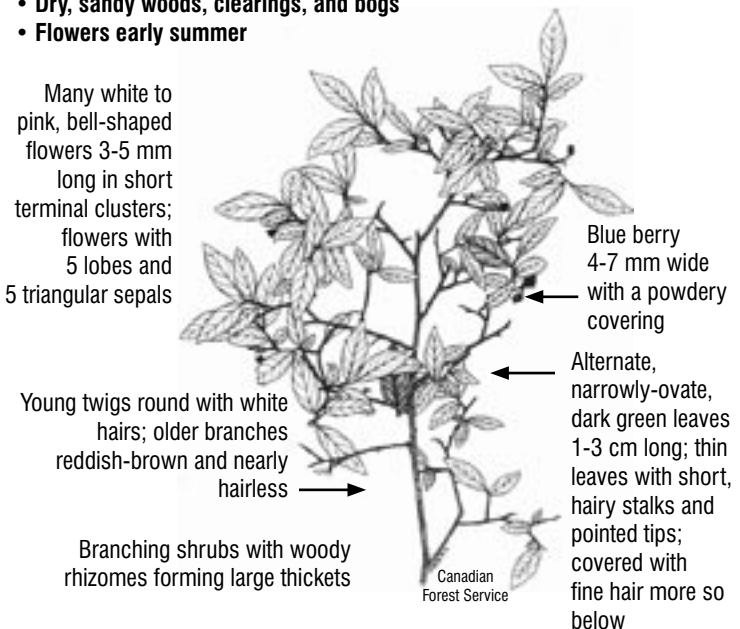


SHRUBS

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.

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Illustrations

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