

A Field Guide to Common Early Flora at Arctic Valley

This booklet is formatted to fit on a phone and assist field ID of about 70 early summer plants, lichens & fungi at Arctic Valley, just a portion of the total 230 which have been documented in the area. The full checklist available at <https://aknps.org> is a result of previous Alaska Native Plant Society field trips and a specimen search in the Consortium of Pacific North West Herbaria. Due to easy access to alpine tundra at the Nike Site, many botanists have visited this area and contributed to a large checklist. By comparison, other areas of the Chugach remain less studied.

This guide is sorted by scientific names aligned to the 2020 Flora of AK Project, with a cross-reference to Hulten's 1968 *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories*.

The Alaska Native Plant Society was founded in 1982 to promote awareness, education and preservation of Alaska native flora.

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Bog Rosemary

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Andromeda polifolia ssp. pumila

Andromeda polifolia

Bog Rosemary- Small dark evergreen shrub. Leaves thick, long, narrow, gray-green above, silvery-white below, edges rolled under. Flowers pink urn-shaped. Very poisonous, neurotoxin, causes nausea, problems breathing, lowering of blood pressure (possible confusion w/ Labrador Tea).



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Yellow Anemone

Family *Ranunculaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Anemonastrum richardsonii

*Anemone richardsonii**

Yellow Anemone- Basal leaves w/ long stems. Flower stalk arises from center of a modified leaf. Styles not reflexed, achenes not winged. **Anemones are petaloid (sepals appear as petals) vs. Buttercups (*Ranunculus*) w/ green sepals.**



Narcissus-flowered Anemone

Family *Ranunculaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Anemonastrum sibiricum

Anemone narcissiflora ssp. *sibiricum**

Narcissus-flowered Anemone (*A. sibirica*)- Flowers large, **many petals**, often blueish underside, **usually more than one per plant**. **Leaves deeply dissected**. Achenes hairless. **Alpine & woods** vs Northern Anemone (*A. parviflora*)- basal leaves dark green, lustrous, glabrous, **3 lobed w/ blunt teeth**. Flowers early, 1 per plant, **5 large white petals** (underside blueish). More alpine. vs *A. multifida*, **Flowers smaller, rosy or lavender underneath**. **Dry open woods (not as high in the mountains)**.



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Alpine Pussy Toes

Family *Asteraceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Antennaria alpina

*Antennaria pallida**

Pussytoes- 4 in SC AK have small gray spatulate basal leaves w/ mucronate tips. 2 w/ very dark involucral bracts :Alaskan Pussytoes (*A. friesiana*)- **Flowering stems w/ glands.** vs. Alpine Pussytoes (*A. alpina*)- **Flowering stems w/o glands.** 2 w/ light colored involucral bracts (pink, white or cream): Littleleaf Pussytoes (*A. microphylla*)- **distally stipitate-glandular and white phyllaries** vs. *A. rosea*-stems without glandular hairs and phyllaries only occasionally white.



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Cat's Paw

Family *Asteraceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Antennaria monocephala monocephala

Antennaria monocephala monocephala

Cat's Paw- **Flowers white, in a single head.** Mat forming w/ stolons. Basal leaves spoon-shaped, **greener, less hairy than most others in this genus.**



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Hairy Rockcress

Family *Brassicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Arabis eschscholtziana

Arabis hirsuta ssp *Eschscholtziana**

A. eschscholtziana **Basal leaves broad & obtuse. Stem leaves spaced apart,** Siliques erect ascending to ascending. **Flowers white-pinkish larger 5-9 mm.** CPNWH none near Anch, 2 Moose Pass, many Kodiak & Aleutians vs *A. pycnocarpa* **Stem leaves spaced closely, Flowers white-yellowish, smaller 3-5mm.** CPNWH 1 Arctic Valley.



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Black Bearberry

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Arctous alpina

*Arctostaphylos alpina**

Alpine Bearberry- **Leaves smaller (4-15mm), rugose, some hairs at base, persisting for years.** Berries mature to blue-black. vs. Red Bearberry **Leaves less persistent, larger (15-30mm), less reticulated, glabrous.** Berries red & sweet.



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Tilesius' wormwood

Family *Asteraceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Artemisia tilesii

Artemisia Tilesii

Tilesius' wormwood (*A. Tilesii*)- **Leaves deeply cut 3-5 lobes smooth & green on top & silvery beneath. Very aromatic.** Frequently used by Yup'ik people for respiratory problems, sore throats, colds, and incense (called Caiggluk). Also called Caribou Weed in some places because leaf shape resembles antlers.



Lady Fern

Family *Woodsiaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Athyrium filix-femina cyclosorum

Athyrium filix-femina

Lady Fern- Stipe short chaffy. **Fronds widest in the middle & lowest primary segments shorter than than middle primary segments** vs. Northern Wood Fern- **Upper innermost pinnae of basal pair much shorter than lower pinnules.** (frond also widest in middle).



Dwarf Birch

Family *Betulaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Betula glandulosa

Betula glandulosa

Dwarf Birch- (2 in SC AK) *B. glandulosa* **leaves longer than wide, wedge shaped at base.** Petioles hairy 5-6 mm long *vs. B. nana* **leaves often wider than long, straight or notched at base.** Petioles very short, 2 mm long. Hybrids are common between the two dwarf birches, and also between tree & dwarf birches.



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Dwarf Birch

Family *Betulaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Betula nana exilis

Betula nana exilis

Dwarf Birch- (2 in SC AK) *B. nana* **leaves often wider than long, straight or notched at base.** Petioles very short, 2 mm long. vs *B. glandulosa* **leaves longer than wide, wedge shaped at base.** Petioles hairy 5-6 mm long. Hybrids are common between the two dwarf birches, and also between tree & dwarf birches.



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Bell Heather

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Cassiope tetragona tetragona

Cassiope tetragona tetragona

Bell Heather (*C. tetragona*)- hanging white bell shaped flowers. **Stems rectangular, leaves in 4 rows, causing branches to look like Phillips screwdriver.** ssp *tetragona*- flowers larger, and much longer pedicels ssp *saximontana* flowers smaller and much shorter flowering pedicels vs Moss Heather- Evergreen dense soft mat. flowers bell-shaped, white w/ red sepals, **at branch ends on stalks** just above a mat, **not in 4 rows. Perfume like fragrance.**



Coastal Paintbrush

Family *Orobanchaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Castilleja unalaschcensis

Castilleja unalaschcensis

Coastal Paintbrush- Leaves long pointed & hairy. **Clusters of yellow "flowers" (bracts) at stem tips** conceal small flowers (resemble a brush dipped in paint).



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Fireweed

Family *Onagraceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Chamaenerion angustifolium

*Epilobium angustifolium**

Fireweed- Edible new leaves & shoots. Flowers used for tea, cooked or jelly. In fall leaves are bright-colored orange-red to purplish.



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River Beauty

Family *Onagraceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Chamaenerion latifolium

*Epilobium latifolium**

River Beauty- Along streams, river bars & scree slopes. Stems sprawling, leaves grey-green, somewhat fleshy, Sepals 4 bright pink, Sepals 4 purplish & pointed



Swedish Cornel

Family *Cornaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Chamaepericlymenum suecicum

*Cornus suecica**

Dwarf Dogwoods (3 species) *C. canadense*- Leaves- one small pair then a whorl or 4-6 at top, lateral veins prominent & arched arising from lower half (not base) of midrib; petals yellowish to greenish, stamens not longer than styles; **hypanthium cream, 1–2 mm, densely appressed-hairy; petals cream; sepals cream turning purple as fruit matures** vs. *C. suecicum*- Leaves- 3 pairs (or more) below top, all similar size, all lateral veins originate from (or near) base; **hypanthium deep purple, very sparsely appressed hair**; petals purplish-black, stamens exceed styles vs. *C. unalaschkense*- Leaves at proximal 2–4 nodes nonchlorophyllous, opposite, ± scalelike, caducous (rarely chlorophyllous at 3d node from apex but **much smaller than more distal leaves**); Petals cream proximally, purple distally; hypanthium cream to mottled purple, densely hairy; Hybrids occur, sometimes large colonies spread by stolons.



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Lapland Diapensia

Family *Diapensiaceae*

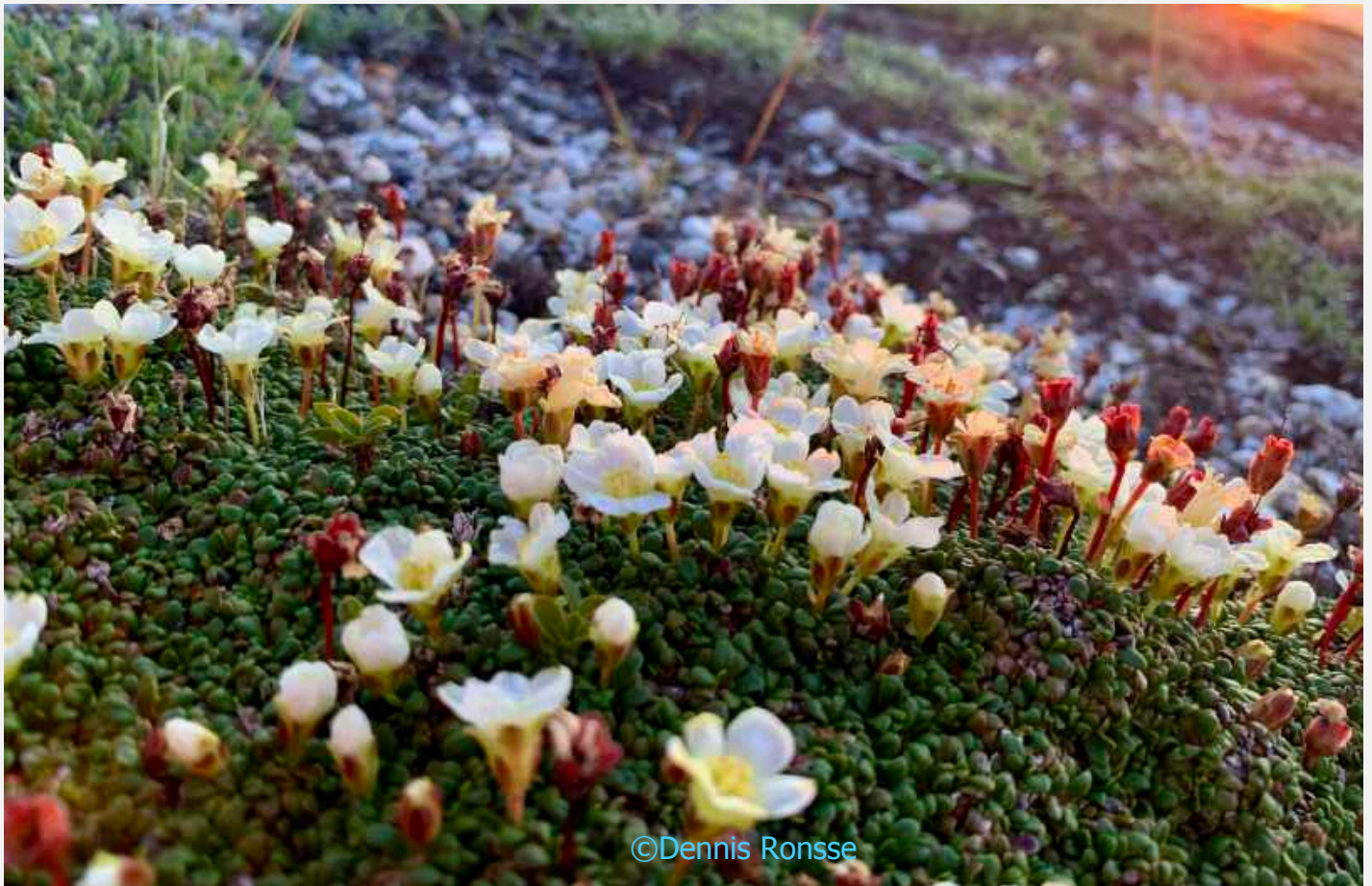
Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Diapensia obovata

*Diapensia lapponica ssp obovata**

Lapland Diapensia- Alpine zone, evergreen leaves, crowded in a mat or lump-like cushion. **White flowers on red stalks**, very early flowering. Many Canadian plants are thought to live to over a century or two! vs. Alpine Azalea- Alpine zone, mat or lump-like with **pink flowers (not on stalks)**, mostly on south-facing alpine slopes.



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Alpine Club Moss

Family *Lycopodiaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Diphasiastrum alpinum

*Lycopodium alpinum**

Alpine Club Moss (*D. alpinum*)- **Leaves blue-green**. Horizontal stems whitish-green, creeping on soil surface, rooting at intervals w/ few leaves **Ultimate branchlets approximately square in cross section**; leaves 4-ranked, **strongly overlapping** vs. *D. sitchense*- **Leaves pale-green, lacking trowell-shaped ventral leaves**. **Ultimate branchlets round in cross section**; leaves 5-ranked, not overlapping.



Northern Draba

Family *Brassicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Draba borealis

Draba borealis

Northern Draba (*D. borealis*)- **Petals white, 4-6 mm long. Stem leaves 3-8 usually coarsely toothed in upper 1/3.**



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Snow Draba

Family *Brassicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Draba nivalis

Draba nivalis

Snow Draba (*D. nivalis*)- **Petals white (2-4 mm). Stem leaves 0 (or 1). Dwarf (2-10cm tall) leaves densely stellate pubescent. Pale gray glaucous appearance** recognizable at a distance. Dry rocky or gravelly places. vs. *D. lonchocarpa* Petals white. Stem leaves 0 or 1(-4). lower leaf surfaces greyish w/ tiny star-like hairs, **upper surface usually hairless**, and **ciliate margins**. vs. *D. cinerea* **Stem leaves 0-5. basal leaves ashy gray on both surfaces.**



Slender Draba

Family *Brassicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Draba stenoloba

Draba stenoloba

Slender Draba (*D. stenoloba*)- **yellow flowers. few stem leaves.** Annual usually. Upper leaf w/ 2-4 rayed & simple hairs. vs. *D. aurea* perennial w/ **densely star-like-hairy on both surfaces. Stem leaves 10-20.**



Star-flowered Draba

Family *Brassicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Draba stenopetala

Draba stenopetala

Star-flowered Draba- Very small alpine plant. Flowers w/ distinctive linear yellow (sometimes purple) petals. In Hulten's time considered rare, but now thought to be uncommon, small & inconspicuous.



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White Mountain Avens

Family *Rosaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Dryas ajanensis beringensis

Dryas octopetala ssp octopetala var octopetala

White Mountain Avens (3 in SC AK, need magnification & hybrids occur) *D. ajanensis ssp beringensis*-

Leaf sinuses 5–25% to midvein. Feathery hairs and stipitate glands abundant along midveins abaxially. vs. *D. hookeriana* **Leaf sinuses 5-25% to midvein, no feathery hairs, but midveins and petioles abaxially stipitate-glandular (rare)** vs Alaska Mountain Avens **sinuses of margins 45–60% to midvein. Feathery hairs absent on leaf underside.**



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Crowberry

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Empetrum nigrum

Empetrum nigrum

Crowberry- Woods, heaths, bogs & alpine slopes (especially north facing). **Leaves small narrow needle-like, maroon colored in spring.** Tiny flowers at stem tips, early, often as snow is melting.



Woolly Geranium

Family *Geraniaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Geranium erianthum

Geranium erianthum

Cranesbill- tall plant. Petals lavender w/ dark stripes. **Leaves large coarse, deeply toothed, palmately lobed.** Mostly forests & meadows, to just above tree line. An attractive ornamental in Anchorage gardens.



Ross Avens

Family *Rosaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Geum rossii

Geum rossii

Ross Avens- **Basal leaves dark green pinnately divided.** Flowers w/ 5 rounded petals, and large leafy sepals, clustered at end of 6-8" stems which have a few small modified leaves. Tundra slopes & snow beds. vs Cinquefoils (*Potentilla spp*)- often more rocky habitat & several species have **tri-foliate** leaves.



Moss Heather

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Harrimanella stelleriana

*Cassiope stelleriana**

Moss Heather (*H. stelleriana*)- Evergreen dense soft mat. flowers bell-shaped, **white w/ red sepals**, at branch ends on stalks just above a mat, **not in 4 rows**. **Perfume like fragrance** vs Bell Heather- hanging white bell shaped flowers. **Stems rectangular, leaves in 4 rows, causing branches to look like Phillips screwdriver.**



Mountain Club Moss

Family *Lycopodiaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Huperzia continentalis

Lycopodium selago ssp ?

H. continentalis- Leaves yellow green, lanceolate, more ascending. Shoots 8-11cm. Sporangia give banded appearance. Alpine & sub-alpine meadows vs. *H. miyoshiana*- leaves dark green, linear, sometimes reflexed. Shoots 12-18cm. and juv stems growing in arc. Mostly coniferous forest. Contains huperzine A, an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor, to treat symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Now produced in culture, which should increase commercialization & reduce picking pressure on wild populations.



Alpine Azalea

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Kalmia procumbens

*Loiseleuria procumbens**

Alpine Azalea (*K. procumbens*)- Alpine zone, evergreen mat or lump-like with **pink flowers (not on stalks)**, mostly on south-facing alpine slopes vs. Lapland Diapensia- Alpine zone, evergreen mat or lump-like cushion. **White flowers on red stalks**, very early flowering. Many Canadian plants are thought to live to over a century or two!



Twinflower

Family *Linnaeaceae*

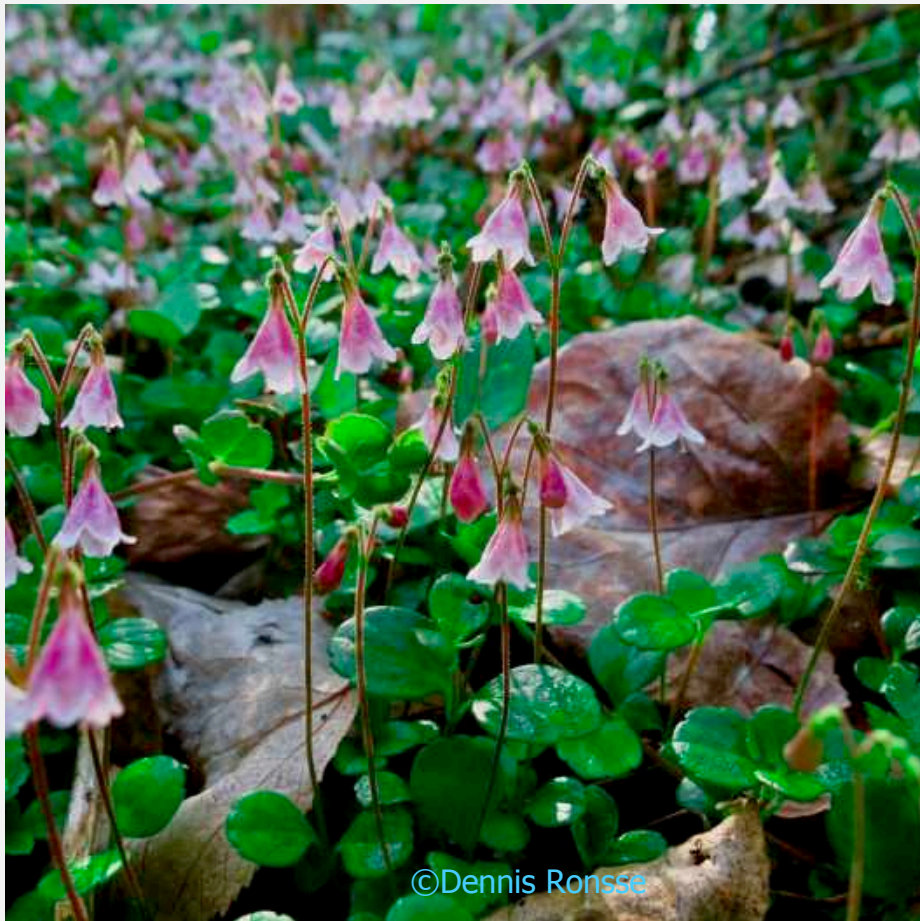
Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Linnaea borealis

Linnaea borealis

Twinflower- A trailing shrub / vine w/ small rounded light green evergreen leaves, opposite and having a few teeth near the tip. Pinkish white bell shaped flowers. Woods and dry slopes in mountains. Logo of ANPS, Verna's favorite!



Heart-leaf Twayblade

Family *Orchidaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Listera cordata

Listera cordata

Heart-leaf Twayblade- Small inconspicuous plant w/ two opposite leaves, heart-shaped bases. Moist mossy places woods or meadows. Flowers greenish normally, but can be purplish to purple-black.



Alp Lily

Family *Liliaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Lloydia serotina

Lloydia serotina

Alp Lily- Leaves thin grass-like. Flowers appear to have 6 pointed petals, really are 3 sepals & 3 petals look much alike.



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Alpine Spiraea

Family *Rosaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Luetkea pectinata

Luetkea pectinata

Alpine Spiraea- sub-alpine, moist slopes. Leaves thin, fern-like, forms large mats. Flowers small 5 petals, cream-white. Also called Partridge-foot because of leaf shape.



Chiming Bells

Family *Boraginaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Mertensia paniculata

Mertensia paniculata

Chiming Bells- Typically large, 15-30" tall. Leaves show in early spring, hairy dark green, tapering to a long point. Flowers pink in the bud, turn blue. Edible, fishy taste.



Blackish Locoweed

Family *Fabaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Oxytropis bryophila

Oxytropis nigrescens ssp *bryophila**

Purple Oxytrope- Small alpine plant w/ 2-3 flowers / stem, **calyx black hairy**, **petals purplish to blue**, pods oblong to cylindrical. Potentially toxic / poisonous. *Oxytropis* and *Astragalus* can absorb selenium and molybdenum from the soil. If ingested causes staggering, labored breathing and convulsions.



Capitate Lousewort

Family *Orobanchaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Pedicularis capitata

Pedicularis capitata

Capitate Lousewort- **Flowers yellow, rather large, few at the top of the stem.** Rocky alpine tundra. Louseworts, 22 in AK, are root parasites of almost any plant they can reach. Favorite hosts are grasses and the pea family (perhaps because pea family plants can fix nitrogen).



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Wooly Lousewort

Family *Orobanchaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Pedicularis lanata

*Pedicularis Kanei**

Wooly Lousewort- Flowers pinkish in dense woolly cluster, **upper corolla lip lacks teeth. Stems not leafy** Edible root (raw or boiled). Dry stony tundra. vs. Langsdorf's Lousewort- Flowers lavender/purplish, **with a pair of slender teeth near the tip** in many flowered **woolly spikes**, elongating in age. Leaves pinnately divided (not merely toothed). **Stems leafy**. Meadows & Tundra. Louseworts, 22 in AK, are root parasites of almost any plant they can reach. Favorite hosts are grasses and the pea family (perhaps because pea family plants can fix nitrogen).



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Blueleaf Cinquefoil

Family Rosaceae

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Potentilla glaucophylla glaucophylla

Potentilla diversifolia

Blueleaf Cinquefoil (*P. glaucophylla*)- Stems ascending / erect > 20 cm tall. Leaves palmately compound (not trifoliate) leaves blueish-green, glabrous to sparsely silky on both surfaces. or white wooly vs. *P. rubricaulis* stems spreading < 15 cm tall. Leaves white wooly underside. Calyx mini-bracts linear to narrow elliptic pointy tipped.



Arctic Cinquefoil

Family *Rosaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Potentilla hyparctica elatior

Potentilla hyparctica ssp elatior

P. hyparctica ssp elatior- **leaves tri-foliolate, sparsely hairy, not woolly hairy on either surface, toothed less than half way to middle.** Styles columnar, petals heart-shaped 4-9mm long. Calyx mini-bracts 2-5 mm wide.



Pixie Eye Primula

Family *Primulaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Primula cuneifolia saxifragifolia

Primula cuneifolia ssp *saxifragifolia*

Pixie-eyed Primula- Tiny plant, usually alpine (or wet meadows). Leaves a rosette, soft fleshy light green, terminally toothed w/ wedge-shaped base. Stem very short. Petals deeply lobed usually bright pink occasionally white.



Longpod Sandwort

Family *Caryophyllaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Pseudocherleria macrocarpa

*Minuartia macrocarpa**

Longpod Sandwort (*M. macrocarpa*)- **Petals > 2x longer than sepals**. Leaves flat, linear to lance shaped, 3 nerved, **margin w/ long cilia**. **Capsules 10-18mm, >2x length of sepals** vs. Reddish Sandwort (*M. rubella*)- **Stalks glandular**. **Leaves small thin linear-subulate w/ 3 nerves** (most easily seen on last year's marcescent remnants). **Sepals pointed**.



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Pink Pyrola

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Pyrola asarifolia asarifolia

Pyrola asarifolia

Pink Pyrola (*P. asarifolia*)- **Flowers pinkish**, Spike 8-10" w/ nodding flowers. Leaves round, wintergreen. Styles protruding vs. *P. chlorantha* smaller leaves, flowers greenish-white vs *P. grandiflora* large leaves, **Flowers large white or greenish-white** vs. Sidebells Wintergreen- **thinner more pointed leaves, very small green bell-shaped flowers on one side of curved stem**. All these **Wintergreens** can photosynthesize under shallow snow.



Mountain Buttercup

Family *Ranunculaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Ranunculus eschscholtzii eschscholtzii

*Ranunculus Eschscholtzii**

Mountain Buttercup (*R. eschscholtzii*)- Sepals w/ yellow hairs, **Leaves & stems glabrous.** vs. Western Buttercup (*R. occidentalis*) - Basal leaves usually long-petioled. Blades 3 lobed, w/ lobes again lobed. Pedicels appressed-pubescent. **Leaves hairy.** note, *Anemones* are petaloid (sepals appear as petals) vs. Buttercups (*Ranunculus*) w/ green sepals.



Snow Buttercup

Family *Ranunculaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Ranunculus nivalis

Ranunculus nivalis

R. nivalis & *R. sulphureus*- Flowers solitary, highly variable in size; growing in wet meadows and tundra below snow beds. Sepals w/ brown stiff hairs; *R. nivalis* Receptacle glabrous; basal leaves reniform base, cleft 3-5 lobes, usually again lobed or toothed vs. *R. sulphureus* Receptacle w/ stiff brown hairs; leaves round in outline, shallowly cleft or toothed (not deeply lobed & toothed).



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Western Buttercup

Family *Ranunculaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Ranunculus occidentalis

Ranunculus occidentalis

Western Buttercup (*R. occidentalis*)- Basal leaves usually long-petioled & **hairy**. Blades 3 lobed, w/ lobes again lobed. **Pedicels appressed-pubescent.** vs. Mountain Buttercup (*R. eschscholtzii*) branched w/ many flowers, **Leaves & stems glabrous.** note, **Anemones** are petaloid (sepals appear as petals) vs. Buttercups (*Ranunculus*) w/ green sepals.



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Roseroot

Family *Crassulaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Rhodiola integrifolia integrifolia

*Sedum rosea ssp integrifolia**

Roseroot- Stems crowded, heavy w/ glabrous, blue-green, fleshy leaves. Root has rose fragrance.
Petals dark red vs. *R. rosea* **Petals pale yellow to greenish** (very few collections in AK).



Labrador Tea

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Rhododendron tomentosum decumbens

*Ledum palustre ssp decumbens**

Labrador Tea (2 in SC AK)- *R. tomentosum*- leaves **smaller, linear, acute tipped. Pedicels bent abruptly just below the capsule.** vs *R. groenlandicum*- leaves **oblong, blunt tipped. Pedicels broadly bent, evenly curved.** Both have Rusty hairs on stem & underside of leaves w/ strong aroma.



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Cloudberry

Family *Rosaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Rubus chamaemorus

Rubus chamaemorus

Cloudberry- Bogs & tundra. Low growing. Leaves are long stemmed w/ 5 lobes. Petals white. Berries orange, highly sought after, collected in large amounts, often combined with seal oil.



Trailing Raspberry

Family *Rosaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Rubus pedatus

Rubus pedatus

Trailing Raspberry- A delicate trailing vine, w/ white petals. The red berries make excellent jam, but seldom occurs in large quantities.



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Beringian Nagoonberry

Family *Rosaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Rubus stellatus

Rubus arcticus ssp *stellatus**

Nagoonberry- 3 in SC AK & hybrids occur. Trailing vines w/ magenta flowers. Great tasting berries, but difficult to harvest in large amount. Rubus is the ancient Latin word for bramble.



Reddish Sandwort

Family *Caryophyllaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Sabulina rubella

*Minuartia rubella**

Reddish Sandwort (*S. rubella*)- **Stalks glandular. Leaves small thin linear-subulate w/ 3 nerves** (most easily seen on last year's remnants). **Sepals pointed** vs. Large-pod & Arctic Sandworts w/ **rounded sepals** & marscescent leaves not 3 nerved.



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Alaska Willow

Family *Salicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Salix alaxensis

Salix alaxensis

Alaska Willow- small shrub to small tree size. Leaves glabrous (or tomentose) bright green above, densely wooly beneath. Stipules not persistent. Stems felty, even in winter. Seed capsules hairy vs. Richardson's Willow- small tree or shrub. Leaves hairy on both surfaces when young, becoming hairless dark green above with age. **dried stipules remaining on twigs for several years. Twigs black or very dark when young, become orange, red, brown in age.** 3 willows provide most moose browse in SC AK: *S. scouleriana*, *S. alaskensis*, and *S. barclayi* because they produce less salicylic acid (less bitter).



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Arctic Willow

Family *Salicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Salix arctica

Salix arctica

Arctic Willow (*S. arctica*)- Dwarf alpine shrub. Leaf margins entire usually w/ long hairs "bearded" at tip. Seed capsules very hairy to sparsely. stems not felty, small tan bract at base of each capsule. Catkins long & stout on leafy shoots. Young male catkins red or purple, often used in rock gardens.



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Barclay Willow

Family *Salicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Salix barclayi

Salix Barclayi

Barclay Willow (*S. barclayi*)- Medium sized bush. **Leaves toothed, shiny above, glaucous & hairless below. (New leaves sparsely hairy). Stipules broad remaining on plant till fall.** Young twigs blackish densely hairy, becoming reddish, hairless. **Willow Roses aids identification.** The most common thicket forming willow in SC AK. 3 willows provide most moose browse in SC AK: *S. scouleriana*, *S. alaskensis*, and *S. barclayi* because they produce less salicylic acid (less bitter).



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Diamond-leaf Willow

Family *Salicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Salix pulchra

Salix pulchra

Diamond-leaf Willow (*S. pulchra*)- **Stipules linear to narrowly oblong, 3-32 mm, usually longer than petioles**, and usually marcescent for two or more years. **Old leaves persist on twigs 2-3 years**, pointed at both ends (diamond-shaped), smooth or w/ a few small teeth. **Twigs shiny brown, reddish, or purple, hairy when young but becoming hairless in age vs.** Tea-leaf Willow (*S. planifolia*)- Rare in AK. Stipules are oblong to narrowly elliptic or obovate, 0.8-3 mm, distinctly shorter than petioles, and rarely marcescent for more than one year.



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Netleaf Willow

Family *Salicaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Salix reticulata

Salix reticulata

Netted Willow (*S. reticulata*)- Tundra. Dwarf. Leaves w/ prominent leathery net like veins, glabrous w/ red petioles. An important "tundra greens" food for some Native people of the Far North.



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Sitka Burnet

Family *Rosaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Sanguisorba canadensis latifolia

*Sanguisorba stipulata**

Sitka Burnet- Basal leaves pinnate, w/ 9-15 roundish, coarsely serrated leaflets. Stem leaves much reduced. Flowering spikes long-cylindrical. Bogs, swamps, meadows, & snow beds. vs *S. officinalis* Flowering spike short rounded, red flowered.



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Ciliate Saxifrage

Family *Saxifragaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Saxifraga eschscholtzii

Saxifraga eschscholtzii

Cushion Saxifrage (*S. eschscholtzii*)- Inconspicuous, very compact alpine plant, mostly crevices & rock ledges. **Leaves w/ long cilia wrapping wart-like leaf clusters.** Flowers very small, yellow turning to red.



Yellow Spotted Saxifrage

Family *Saxifragaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Saxifraga funstonii

*Saxifraga bronchialis ssp funstonii**

Yellow Spotted Saxifrage (*S. bronchialis ssp funstonii*)- **Basal leaves in sausage-like clusters, each leaf bristle edged with a sharp tip. Petals white or cream-colored w/ yellow spots.** vs Prickly Saxifrage (*S. tricuspidata*)- **Leaves w/ 3 spine tipped teeth. White flowers w/ lavender spots.**



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Prickly Saxifrage

Family *Saxifragaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Saxifraga tricuspidata

Saxifraga tricuspidata

Prickly Saxifrage (*S. tricuspidata*)- White flowers w/ lavender spots. **"Evergreen leaves"** Leaf tips w/ **3 sharp spiny teeth**. become very red in winter, return to green in summer. vs Yellow Spotted Saxifrage- Densely caespitose, **clusters of small single spine tipped leaves in a sausage-like shape**. Petals white or cream-colored w/ yellow spots.



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Moss Champion

Family *Caryophyllaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Silene acaulis ssp subacaulescens

Silene acaulis subacaulescens

Moss Champion- Cushions of very small leaves covered w/ pink flowers, usually found in dry rocky high alpine places, but also low elevations on Turnagain Arm.



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Bog Blueberry

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Vaccinium uliginosum

Vaccinium uliginosum

Bog Blueberry (*V. uliginosum*)- **Twigs rounded. Plant small, <40 cm tall. Leaf margins entire.**
vs. Dwarf Blueberry Twigs rounded. Plant small, <40 cm tall, **Leaf margins finely toothed.** vs Early
Blueberry & Red Huckleberry- **Twigs angled. Plant large, > 60 cm tall.**



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Lingonberry

Family *Ericaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Vaccinium vitis-idaea

Vaccinium vitis-idaea

Lingonberry- Low growing evergreen shrub. **Leaves evergreen, shiny, hard w/ margins curled, dark spots underneath.** Flowers pinkish at branch tips. Good tasting berries improve with frost (still good in spring).



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Capitate Valerian

Family *Valerianaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Valeriana capitata

Valeriana capitata

Capitate Valerian (*V. capitata*)- smaller (5-10") upper stem leaves sessile, simple or 3-lobed. Bractlets glabrous or pubescent only at base. Buds maroon, turning pink, then white in bloom vs. Sitka Valerian (*V. sitchensis*)- larger (18-24"), upper stem leaves petiolated 3-5 foliated. Bractlets ciliate. buds Pink-white, turning white in bloom.



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False Hellebore

Family *Melanthiaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Veratrum viride eschscholtzii

Veratrum viride eschscholtzii

False Hellebore- Large (3-5 feet tall). Leaves broad w/ "parallel" veins. Very poisonous.



Alpine Veronica

Family *Plantaginaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Veronica wormskjoldii

Veronica Wormskjoldii

Alpine Veronica- Alpine & meadows. 5-8" Tall. Stem non-branching, slightly hairy. Leaves sessile mostly opposite. Flowers lavender-blue, 4 petals.



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Dead Man's Fingers

Family *Parmeliaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Dactylina arctica

Dead Man's Fingers- Usually in mossy places. Often used by birds for nest material, presumably for insulation value.



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Blood Spot Lichen

Family *Ophioparmaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Ophioparma

Blood Spot Lichen (*Ophioparma*.)- 2 in AK, differ in spore type, unreliable field ID. Both are common the arctic & mountains of AK. A pale gray lichen dotted w/ red spots the color of garnets. (Most likely in SC AK appears to be *O. lapponica*. *O. ventosa* has been found in NW and SE AK).



Rosy Goblet

Family *Sarcoscyphaceae*

Scientific Name- Flora of Alaska 2023

Scientific Name- Hulten 1968

Microstoma protractum

Scarlet Cups Fungus or Scarlet Elf Cap- Often show in early spring. Wikipedia: Because of their brilliant color, many species are very easy to see in damp woodlands before spring growth has started. In areas with a continental climate, fruiting bodies may be developed underneath snow and are only revealed at the thaw. There are about 28 species world-wide.



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