

A Checklist of Flora at Flattop Mountain

Flattop Mountain is a popular hike near Anchorage with two trailheads, one near the end of Toilsome Road, and the other at Upper Canyon Drive. Both trailheads are heavily used and provide quick access to alpine flora of Chugach State Park, but they are considered moderate to difficult due to a few spots of loose rock. Roads take a person to tree line and good trails continue on up to the summit of Flattop Mountain in about 1.5 miles and 1,400 feet of ascent from the parking lots.

This list is a compilation from many observers, Alaska Native Plant Society field trips, and herbarium specimens. A field guide for common plants along the trail is available from the Alaska Native Plant Society's website: <https://aknps.org>. The society was founded in 1982 to promote awareness, education and preservation of Alaska native flora and it hosts educational programs, field trips and more.

This list is sorted by scientific names consistent with the Flora of Alaska Project, updated from Hulten's 1968 *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories*. Lichens, mosses, and fungi are included after vascular plants.

Please consider this a work in progress and contact [dennis.ronsse<at>gmail<dot>com](mailto:dennis.ronsse@gmail.com) for additions and corrections.

References:

Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+

Hulten, E. 1968. *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories*

Ickert-Bond, S.M., B. Bennett, M.L. Carlson, J. DeLapp, J.R. Fulkerson, C.L. Parker, T.W.

Nawrocki, M.C. Stensvold, and C.O. Webb (eds.). 2019. *Flora of Alaska*.

Available: <https://floraofalaska.org>

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Achillea millefolium borealis</i>	Northern Yarrow	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Aconitum delphiniifolium</i>	Larkspurleaf Monkshood	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>
<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	Moschatel	<i>Adoxaceae</i>

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Anemonastrum richardsonii</i>	Yellow Anemone	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>
<i>Anemonastrum sibiricum</i>	Narcissus-flowered Anemone	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>
<i>Anemone parviflora</i>	Northern Anemone	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>
<i>Angelica</i>	Wild Celery	<i>Apiaceae</i>
<i>Antennaria monocephala</i>	Cat's Paw	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Western Columbine	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>
<i>Arabidopsis kamchatica</i>	Kamchatka Rockcress	<i>Brassicaceae</i>
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnik	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Arctous alpina</i>	Black Bearberry	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Arnica chamissonis</i>	Chamisso arnica Leafy Arnica	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Arnica frigida</i>	Frigid Arnica	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Arnica latifolia</i>	Meadow Arnica	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Artemisia arctica</i>	Arctic Wormwood	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Artemisia arctica arctica</i>	Arctic Wormwood	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Astragalus umbellatus</i>	Tundra Milkvetch	<i>Fabaceae</i>
<i>Betula nana exilis</i>	Dwarf Birch	<i>Betulaceae</i>
<i>Bistorta vivipara</i>	Alpine Meadow Bistort	<i>Polygonaceae</i>
<i>Boechera retrofracta</i>	Reflexed Rockcress	<i>Brassicaceae</i>
<i>Caltha leptosepala</i>	Mountain Marigold	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>
<i>Campanula lasiocarpa</i>	Mountain Harebell	<i>Campanulaceae</i>
<i>Carex circinata</i>	Coil-leafed Sedge	<i>Cyperaceae</i>
<i>Carex macrochaeta</i>	Longawn Sedge	<i>Cyperaceae</i>
<i>Carex mertensii</i>	Mertens Sedge	<i>Cyperaceae</i>
<i>Carex microchaeta microchaeta</i>	Small-awned Sedge	<i>Cyperaceae</i>
<i>Carex microchaeta nesophila</i>	Small-awned Sedge	<i>Cyperaceae</i>
<i>Carex nigricans</i>	Carex Sedge	<i>Cyperaceae</i>
<i>Carex podocarpa</i>	Shortstalked Sedge	<i>Cyperaceae</i>
<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>	Bell Heather	<i>Ericaceae</i>

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Castilleja unalaschcensis</i>	Coastal Paintbrush	<i>Orobanchaceae</i>
<i>Cerastium arvense strictum</i>	Mouse-eared Chickweed	<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>
<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	Fireweed	<i>Onagraceae</i>
<i>Chamaepericlymenum canadense</i>	Dwarf Dogwood	<i>Cornaceae</i>
<i>Conioselinum pacificum</i>	Hemlock Parsley	<i>Apiaceae</i>
<i>Corydalis arctica</i>	Few-flowered Corydalis	<i>Fumariaceae</i>
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Delphinium glaucum</i>	Mountain Larkspur	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>
<i>Diapensia obovata</i>	Lapland Diapensia	<i>Diapensiaceae</i>
<i>Draba nivalis</i>	Snow Draba	<i>Brassicaceae</i>
<i>Draba ruaxes</i>	Coast Mountain Draba	<i>Brassicaceae</i>
<i>Draba stenopetala</i>	Star-flowered Draba	<i>Brassicaceae</i>
<i>Dryas ajanensis beringensis</i>	White Mountain Avens	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Crowberry	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Erigeron peregrinus</i>	Coastal Fleabane	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Festuca altaica</i>	Altai Fescue	<i>Poaceae</i>
<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i>	Chocolate lily	<i>Liliaceae</i>
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw	<i>Rubiaceae</i>
<i>Galium trifidum trifidum</i>	Small Bedstraw	<i>Rubiaceae</i>
<i>Galium triflorum</i>	Sweetscented Bedstraw	<i>Rubiaceae</i>
<i>Gentiana glauca</i>	Glaucous gentian	<i>Gentianaceae</i>
<i>Gentiana platypetala</i>	Blue Gentian	<i>Gentianaceae</i>
<i>Geranium erianthum</i>	Woolly Geranium	<i>Geraniaceae</i>
<i>Geum macrophyllum</i>	Large-leaf Avens	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Geum rossii</i>	Ross Avens	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Oak Fern	<i>Cystopteridaceae</i>
<i>Harrimanella stelleriana</i>	Moss Heather	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>	Cow Parsnip	<i>Apiaceae</i>

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Juniperus communis depressa</i>	Mountain Juniper	<i>Cupressaceae</i>
<i>Kalmia procumbens</i>	Alpine Azalea	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Twinflower	<i>Linnaeaceae</i>
<i>Lloydia serotina</i>	Alp Lily	<i>Liliaceae</i>
<i>Lupinus nootkatensis</i>	Nootka Lupine	<i>Fabaceae</i>
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	One-cone clubmoss	<i>Lycopodiaceae</i>
<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>	Chiming Bells	<i>Boraginaceae</i>
<i>Moehringia lateriflora</i>	Grove Sandwort	<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>
<i>Oxytropis bryophila</i>	Purple Oxytrope	<i>Fabaceae</i>
<i>Papaver nudicaule americanum</i>	Icelandic Poppy	<i>Papaveraceae</i>
<i>Parnassia kotzebuei</i>	Small Grass of Parnassus	<i>Parnassiaceae</i>
<i>Pedicularis capitata</i>	Capitate Lousewort	<i>Orobanchaceae</i>
<i>Pedicularis labradorica</i>	Labrador Lousewort	<i>Orobanchaceae</i>
<i>Pedicularis lanata</i>	Wooly Lousewort	<i>Orobanchaceae</i>
<i>Pedicularis verticillata</i>	Whorled-leaf Lousewort	<i>Orobanchaceae</i>
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce	<i>Pinaceae</i>
<i>Platanthera convallariifolia</i>	Corn Flower / Green Bog Candle	<i>Orchidaceae</i>
<i>Polemonium acutiflorum</i>	Tall jacob's ladder	<i>Polemoniaceae</i>
<i>Populus</i>	Black Cottonwood & Balsam Poplar	<i>Salicaceae</i>
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling Aspen	<i>Salicaceae</i>
<i>Potentilla villosula</i>	Villous Cinquefoil	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Pseudocherleria macrocarpa</i>	Longpod Sandwort	<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>
<i>Pyrola asarifolia asarifolia</i>	Pink Pyrola	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Ranunculus occidentalis</i>	Western Buttercup	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Rattlebox	<i>Orobanchaceae</i>
<i>Rhodiola integrifolia integrifolia</i>	Roseroot	<i>Crassulaceae</i>
<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	Labrador Tea	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Rhododendron tomentosum</i>	Labrador Tea	<i>Ericaceae</i>

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Ribes laxiflorum</i>	Trailing Black Currant	<i>Grossulariaceae</i>
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	Cloudberry	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Rubus pedatus</i>	Trailing Raspberry	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Rubus stellatus</i>	Nagoonberry	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Sabulina rubella</i>	Reddish Sandwort	<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>
<i>Sagina nivalis</i>	Snow Pearlwort	<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>
<i>Salix alaxensis</i>	Alaska Willow	<i>Salicaceae</i>
<i>Salix arctica</i>	Arctic Willow	<i>Salicaceae</i>
<i>Salix barclayi</i>	Barclay Willow	<i>Salicaceae</i>
<i>Salix fuscescens</i>	Alaska Bog Willow	<i>Salicaceae</i>
<i>Salix reticulata</i>	Netleaf Willow	<i>Salicaceae</i>
<i>Salix richardsonii</i>	Richardson's Willow	<i>Salicaceae</i>
<i>Sambucus racemosa pubens</i>	Red-berried Elder	<i>Adoxaceae</i>
<i>Sanguisorba canadensis latifolia</i>	Sitka Burnet	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Sanguisorba menziesii</i>	Menzies' burnet	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Saxifraga funstonii</i>	Yellow Spotted Saxifrage	<i>Saxifragaceae</i>
<i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i>	Prickly Saxifrage	<i>Saxifragaceae</i>
<i>Senecio triangularis</i>	Triangular-leaved groundsel	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Silene acaulis ssp subacaulescens</i>	Moss Champion	<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>
<i>Spinulum annotinum</i>	Stiff Club Moss	<i>Lycopodiaceae</i>
<i>Spiraea stevenii</i>	Alaska Spiraea	<i>Rosaceae</i>
<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	Watermelon Berry	<i>Liliaceae</i>
<i>Swertia obtusa</i>	Star Gentian	<i>Gentianaceae</i>
<i>Swida sericea</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornaceae</i>
<i>Tofieldia coccinea</i>	Northern False Asphodel	<i>Tofieldiaceae</i>
<i>Tofieldia pusilla</i>	Scotch False Asphodel	<i>Tofieldiaceae</i>
<i>Trientalis europaea</i>	Star Flower	<i>Myrsinaceae</i>
<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>	Mountain Hemlock	<i>Pinaceae</i>

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Urtica dioica sondenii</i>	Stinging Nettle	<i>Urticaceae</i>
<i>Vaccinium cespitosum</i>	Dwarf Blueberry	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>	Early Blueberry	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	Bog Blueberry	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Lingonberry	<i>Ericaceae</i>
<i>Valeriana capitata</i>	Capitate Valerian	<i>Valerianaceae</i>
<i>Valeriana sitchensis</i>	Sitka Valerian	<i>Valerianaceae</i>
<i>Veratrum viride eschscholtzii</i>	False Hellebore	<i>Melanthiaceae</i>
<i>Veronica wormskjoldii</i>	Alpine Veronica	<i>Plantaginaceae</i>
<i>Viola epipsila repens</i>	Marsh Violet	<i>Violaceae</i>
<i>Viola langsдорфii</i>	Alaska Violet	<i>Violaceae</i>
<i>Viola renifolia</i>	White Violet	<i>Violaceae</i>
<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>	Juniper Hair-cap Moss	<i>Polytrichaceae</i>