Ericaceae ~ Heath Family

The heath family is large and varied, containing trees, shrubs, and perennials, including unusual non-green plants. Most species have **alternate leaves, flower parts in 5’s, and anthers that release pollen through pores**. They generally favor acidic soil and dominate acidic habitats. The family is usually broken down into subfamilies, and some authorities consider these separate families. The many blueberries or huckleberries, *Vaccinium*, are in their own subfamily, *Vaccinioideae*, that have **urn-shaped flowers, berries**, and are mostly **deciduous**. The subfamily *Pyroloideae*, which includes *Pyrola* and *Chimaphila*, are **evergreens** with **5 separate petals** and seeds in **5-parted capsules**. The most fascinating species, those that do not produce any chlorophyll, are placed in the subfamily *Monotropoideae*. Once thought to be saprophytes—plants that live on decaying matter—these are actually **indirect parasites** that tap into green plants, usually conifers, through a **fungal connection** and are properly referred to as **myco-heterotrophic**. With the green plant doing the photosynthesis and the fungal mycorrhizae transporting the nutrients, there is no need for leaves or extensive roots, so **these plants are little more than flower stalks**. Commercially valuable members include rhododendrons for their flowers and blueberries for their fruit. A very rare endemic, *Kalmiopsis fragrans*, is only known from a few rocky places in the Western Cascades in Douglas County.

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**WHITE RHODODENDRON**

*Rhododendron albiflorum*

**shrub • 3–8’ (90–240 cm)**

**moist forests**

**early to middle: June**

Also known as Cascade azalea, this deciduous shrub has large elliptic leaves that are **shiny** and have **short rusty hairs** on the upper surface. They are **alternate but clustered closely so as to appear in whorls**. The **fragrant, 5-lobed, bell-shaped flowers are white to cream**, and appear on the previous year’s growth. They are followed by 5-parted woody capsules. The whole plant has an upright, somewhat leggy growth habit.

White rhododendron is a mid to high elevation species found in the Cascades from northern Lane county north to British Columbia and east to Montana. Look for it at Hawk Mountain, Bull of the Woods and Bachelor Mountain. Though not profiled in this book, the trail to Triangulation Peak near Mount Jefferson is one of the best places to see masses of white rhododendron.

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**FOOL’S HUCKLEBERRY**

*Menzièsia ferrugínea*

**shrub • 3–8’ (90–240 cm)**

**forests**

**early to middle: June**

The pink to peach-colored, urn-shaped flowers resemble those of huckleberries, but its fruit is an inedible **woody capsule** rather than a delicious berry, hence the name “fool’s huckleberry”. Another common name is false azalea, for its **clustered leaves** are similar to those of azaleas (deciduous rhododendrons). Unlike most heath family members, its **floral parts are in 4’s**. Out of bloom, the 4-parted capsule distinguishes it from white rhododendron as does its more spreading growth habit and its duller, sometimes bluish-green leaves that are covered with pale glandular hairs.

Fool’s huckleberry occurs only as far south as northern Lane County in the Cascades but reaches from Alaska into northern California along the coast. Great places to see it are at Tidbits, Anvil Lake, Gordon Meadows, Monument Peak, and Bull of the Woods.

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**PACIFIC RHODODENDRON**

*Rhododendron macrophyllum*

**shrub • 3–15’ (90–450 cm)**

**dry forests, clearcuts, roadsides**

**middle: June to July**

This is the state flower of Washington and easily one of the showiest shrubs of the Pacific Northwest. It can grow quite thickly in the forest understory and because it resprouts after a fire or logging, it often blankets mountain clearcuts with its **large, pink, funnel-shaped blossoms**. The **evergreen leaves** can be up to 8” long. The fruit is a woody capsule. Where rhododendrons grow in abundance, other heath family members such as huckleberries and wintergreen are often seen as well.

Pacific rhododendron occurs from British Columbia to California, along the coast to the west side of the mountains. Table Rock has an amazing show in July. Illahee Rock, Patterson, Whetstone, and Lookout mountains, and Parrish and Daly Lakes are other good places to admire it.
PINE MANZANITA
Arctostaphylos nevadensis

This low, evergreen, cushion-like shrub is often seen densely covering open rocky areas. Its somewhat spoon-shaped leaves have a small point at the tip. Tight clusters of white to pinkish urn-shaped flowers hanging from the end of the stems produce dull reddish berries. As with most manzanitas, the bark is a rich mahogany color that peels off. Pine manzanita is often confused with kinnikinnick (A. uva-ursi). Mainly a coastal species, kinnikinnick has leaves with rounded tips, its berries are bright red, and it has a less upright, more trailing habit.

Pine manzanita is very common throughout the Cascades. It also occurs in Washington, California, and the Blue mountains of Oregon. Look for it at Tidbits, Mt. June, Twin Lakes, Whitehorse Meadows, Wild Rose Point, Castle Rock, and Patterson Mountain.

Hairy Manzanita
Arctostaphylos columbiàna

Hairy manzanita is a much larger, more upright shrub than the previous species. It is characterized by long bristly hairs as well as short ones on the leaves and especially on young twigs. At a distance these give the plant a gray-green appearance. Each white to pinkish flower has a conspicuous leafy bract up to 3/4” long. Manzanita is Spanish for little apple and refers to the little, dull red, berry-like fruits. Be careful when identifying manzanitas, however, as they frequently hybridize where their ranges cross. At lower elevations in Douglas and southern Lane counties, the similar, hoary manzanita (A. canescens) may be seen. It has no long hairs but is tomentose. These 2 species grow side by side in some locations and may be just different forms of the same species.

Hairy manzanita is found from California to British Columbia and across western Oregon at low to middle elevations. It can be seen at Castle Rock, Mt. June, Youngs Rock, Heckletooth, and Bearbones mountains, and along the Wolf Rock loop.

Greenleaf Manzanita
Arctostaphylos páxtula

Another large evergreen shrub, greenleaf manzanita is distinguished from hairy manzanita by its shinier green leaves and lack of long hairs. It has very short glandular hairs. It also has much smaller bracts on the inflorescence and pinker flowers.

Greenleaf manzanita occurs from California and southwest Oregon up through the Cascades on both the east and west slopes and east to the Rockies. In the Western Cascades it is most common to the south. It can be found at Abbott Butte, Whitehorse Meadows, Moon Point, Hemlock Lake, and Browder Ridge.

Pacifc Madrone
Arbùtus menzièsii

This small tree is a standout any time of year and one of the great treasures of the Pacific coast. It has large, glossy, evergreen leaves and showy panicles of fragrant white flowers that are followed by orange to scarlet berries. The flaky bark peels off the sinuous limbs to reveal sensuously smooth green wood that eventually turns orange. Song birds love its berries, and insects and hummingbirds are attracted to its urn-shaped flowers.

Pacifc madrone inhabits dry hillsides and rocky areas, mostly below 4000’, alone or in association with oaks or Douglas-fir. It can resprout from the base after a fire.

Although 2 other species of madrone occur in the southwest, Pacific madrone is found only on the western sides of the Pacific states and British Columbia. While much more common in the lowlands, occasional specimens can be seen at Castle Rock, Big Squaw Mountain, Youngs Rock, and along the Wolf Rock loop, as well as along low elevation roads.
ALPINE LAUREL
*Kalmia microphylla*

shrub • 6–18” (15–45 cm)

wet meadows

early: June

Pink drifts of beautiful alpine laurel brighten a number of wetlands in early spring. The showy, cup-shaped flower is quite fascinating on close examination. When it first opens, each of the 10 anthers is tucked in a little pocket, seen from the outside as an odd-looking bump. The first insect that lands releases these spring-loaded stamens, tossing the pollen at the unsuspecting pollinator. The shiny evergreen leaves are opposite, unusual for the heath family, and are inrolled at the edges. In the fall, older leaves often turn bright red and a few flowers may appear. The fruit is a woody capsule.

As its name indicates, alpine laurel grows at high elevations, but it also occurs at midmontane levels. In Oregon, it is found mainly in the Cascades, Siskiyous, and Wallowas. Patterson Mountain, Parrish Lake, and Quaking Aspen Swamp are terrific places to see this lovely plant. It grows at Gordon Meadows, Bruno Meadows, and Groundhog and Hawk mountains as well.

PINK MOUNTAIN-HEATHER
*Phyllodoce empetriformis*

shrub • 6–18” (15–45 cm)

wet meadows

early to middle: late June

Mountain-heathers are low shrubs that get their name from their resemblance to the Old World true heathers (*Erica*). Their alternate, evergreen, linear leaves resemble conifer needles or cultivated rosemary. The 5-lobed, bell-shaped flowers of pink mountain-heather have 5 red sepals and nod on long pedicels. The 10 stamens are hidden within, but the long style protrudes from the rosy flower.

Pink mountain-heather occurs from Alaska to northern California and east to the Rockies. While it is an abundant and often dominant species of High Cascade alpine meadows, it is only infrequently found in the Western Cascades. A little searching will turn up small patches in cool spots at Hawk and Groundhog mountains, and Quaking Aspen Swamp. So far, the less common yellow mountain-heather (*Phyllodoce glanduliflora*), another high mountain dweller, has been found in our area only at Twin Lakes (see p. ??).
**Red Huckleberry**

*Vaccinium parvifolium*

- **Shrub**: 3–12’ (90–360 cm)
- **Location**: Moist coniferous woods
- **Bloom Time**: Early: June

Red huckleberry is a large, open, graceful shrub with many angular-edged, green branches and small (½–1” long), entire or finely toothed, oval leaves. It has inconspicuous, translucent, pale green to reddish flowers that are wider than long, with a shallowly lobed calyx. Many insects flying around it may be the first clue that the plant is in flower. This delicate shrub is far more conspicuous when it bears its edible but tart, bright red berries that are favorites of birds. Young plants might be confused with grouseberry but are more spreading and flexible, and found in moister spots.

Red huckleberry occurs from Alaska to California, mainly west of the Cascades-Sierra crest, from sea level to middle elevations. It is most frequently found in lower elevation coniferous forests where it prefers growing out of rotting logs and stumps. Castle Rock, Table Rock, Mt. June, and Watson Falls are good places to see it.

**Grouseberry**

*Vaccinium scoparium*

- **Shrub**: 4–15” (15–38 cm)
- **Location**: Dry forest
- **Bloom Time**: Early: late June to July

This low-growing shrub is small in all its parts. Its finely toothed, oval leaves are no more than ¾” long, giving rise to another common name, little-leaf huckleberry. The red berries that follow the pink urn-shaped flowers are tasty but only about ¼” in diameter and are probably best left for the grouse and small mammals who value them. The calyx is barely lobed. The numerous short green twigs have strongly angled edges and are mainly vertical, giving the plant a broom-like appearance.

Grouseberry is found in mountains from British Columbia and Alberta south across most of the western states. While it is a ubiquitous groundcover in the dry lodgepole pine forests of the High Cascades, it is far less common at the lower elevations of the Western Cascades. Look for it at Whitehorse Meadows, Olallie Mountain, Cache Meadows, and Coffin Mountain.

**Dwarf Huckleberry**

*Vaccinium cespitum*

- **Shrub**: 4–18” (10–45 cm)
- **Location**: Wet meadows, moist rocky ridges
- **Bloom Time**: Early to middle: June

Dwarf huckleberry is a rhizomatous, sometimes mat-forming, deciduous shrub. The small ½–1”, elliptic leaves are bright green, finely toothed and densely clustered at the ends of the short twigs. The pretty, pink, narrowly urn-shaped flowers are attached individually in the leaf axils, but are so close together they may appear to be in a cluster. Their calyces are inconspicuously lobed. The edible berries are glaucous. The similar Cascade blueberry (*V. deliciosum*) has more spherical flowers, is glaucous on the undersides of the leaves, and is most commonly found at higher elevations, only coming into our area at the northern end.

Dwarf huckleberry occurs from Alaska east across Canada and the northern states to Maine, and south as far as California and New Mexico. It is found at mid to high elevations in the Cascades and other Oregon mountains. Look for it at Blair Lake, Grasshopper Meadows, Coffin Mountain, and Hemlock Lake.

**Bog Blueberry**

*Vaccinium uliginosum (V. occidentale)*

- **Shrub**: 4–24” (10–60 cm)
- **Location**: Wet meadows, bogs
- **Bloom Time**: Middle: June to early July

Bog blueberry is a low-growing, rhizomatous shrub that often forms large patches in wet meadows (there’s no difference botanically between “huckleberry” and “blueberry”, just regional tradition). It differs from all our other huckleberries in several respects: it has clusters of up to 4 flowers per leaf axil that usually bloom on old wood, deeply lobed calyces, and glaucous leaves that turn plum in the fall. The numerous, closely packed, oval to elliptic leaves are entire and only about 1” long. The sepal lobes are still somewhat visible at the ends of the edible, frosted blue berries.

Bog blueberry is a variable circumboreal species that ranges down through Canada, the northern border states, and most of the west. In Oregon, it is found mainly at middle to high elevation in the Cascades. It grows at Gordon Meadows, Groundhog Mountain, Blair Lake, Cache Meadows, and Bruno Meadows.

**Heath Family**

- **114 Ericaceae**

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**Heath Family**

- **Dwarf Huckleberry**

- **Bog Blueberry**

- **Red Huckleberry**

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**Heath Family**

- **Grouseberry**

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**Heath Family**

- **115 Ericaceae**
**Slender Wintergreen**
*Gaultheria ovatifolia*

subshrub • 2–8” (5–20 cm)
dry to moist woods
early to middle: June

This small evergreen shrublet forms an attractive groundcover. It has alternate, finely toothed, ovate leaves and little white bell-shaped flowers that originate singly from the leaf axils. This species can best be told from alpine wintergreen by the calyx that has red glandular hairs and covers less than half of the corolla. The edible, red, berry-like fruit is actually a capsule surrounded by the fleshy calyx and retains the calyx hairs. It tastes slightly sweet.

Slender wintergreen can be found from British Columbia to California and east to Idaho. It is fairly common at mid to high elevations in the Cascades and also grows in the Siskiyous. It is easily seen by the side of the trails at Twin Lakes, Table Rock, and Whitehorse Meadows.

**Salal**
*Gaultheria shallon*

shrub • 1–7’ (30–210 cm)
dry to moist coniferous forest
early to middle: June

Large leathery leaves, floriferous racemes of white flowers and dark blue edible fruit make salal an attractive plant year round, a valuable shrub for wildlife and an excellent choice for native plant gardens. It is common in the forest understory especially at low elevations. The entire inflorescence, including the urn-shaped flowers themselves, is covered with red glandular hairs. The mildly sweet fruits are formed from the calyx persisting around the actual seed capsule. They were a significant source of food for native peoples and make a good jam.

Salal grows along the West Coast from California to Alaska, reaching from sea level to mid-montane. It can be seen at Tire, Hecketooth, and Big Squaw mountains, Castle Rock, Watson Falls, and Mt. June.

**Alpine Wintergreen**
*Gaultheria humifusa*

subshrub • 1–2” (2–5 cm)
wetlands, moist forest
early to middle: June

Alpine wintergreen is similar to slender wintergreen but is smaller, more compact, and prefers a moister habitat. It often forms low mats next to small lakes, rooting as it creeps. The most distinctive difference is its glabrous calyx. The corolla is shorter than that of slender wintergreen, and as a result, the tips of the calyx lobes reach the edge of the corolla. The tasty fruit formed by the calyx is also smooth. Its leaves are less noticeably toothed or entire and tend to be closer together.

Alpine wintergreen is found across the west, most commonly at higher elevations, usually above 4500’. In Oregon, it is found in the Cascades and Blue Mountains. Look for it at Gordon Meadows, Anvil Lake, Bruno Meadows, Groundhog Mountain, and Quaking Aspen Swamp. All 3 *Gaultheria* species can be found at Whetstone Mountain.

**One-Sided Wintergreen**
*Orthilia (Pyrola) secunda*

perennial • 3–8” (7–20 cm)
coniferous forest
late: July to early August

The species name *secunda* as well as the common names, another being sidebells, all refer to the way the pale greenish flowers hang more or less to one side. Each flower has 10 anthers and a straight style which poke through the 5 tightly cupped petals. An evergreen, rhizomatous ground cover, it can make large patches of its bright green, finely toothed, ovate leaves. The leaves are thinner than our *Pyrola* species.

One-sided wintergreen is a widespread circumboreal species, ranging across Canada and the northern US and down through most of the western states. It is also found in parts of Mexico, Europe, and Asia. It is common in the Cascades and can be seen along nearly every trail in this book.
WHITE-VEINED WINTERGREEN
Pyrola picta

perennial • 6–12” (15–30 cm)
coniferous forest
late: July to early August

White-veined wintergreen is a handsome woodland perennial. It has a single stalk of off-white flowers that arises from rosettes of thick evergreen leaves. The 5-petaled flowers have a long style that curves downward and remains evident on the seed capsule. The distinctive white veining on its ovate leaves distinguishes it from most plants. There is only 1 central vein. Individuals vary quite a bit, some show very little white. The only plant it might be confused with is rattlesnake plantain, a woodland orchid whose white veins are more net-like and branch off several parallel central veins. Where there is not enough light for photosynthesis, plants with very tiny leaves or leafless mycotrophic plants.

White-veined wintergreen occurs across the west and is common at mid to high elevations throughout our area. It can be seen on most trails. Crescent Mountain is a good place to see this species and also Prince’s-Pine.

PRINCE’S-PINE
Chimaphila menziesii

When it is out of bloom this little evergreen perennial is easy to miss. Unlike the following species, little prince’s pine has only a few alternating toothed leaves, and there are seldom more than a few plants growing together. While fresh leaves are bright green, as they mature they become dark and dull with a noticeably paler central vein. At the top of the reddish stems are 1 to 3 lightly scented, nodding flowers. The 5 waxy white petals are swept back to expose the flattened stigma and large superior ovary—green at first but pink with age. Ten stamens bear anthers that release pollen through pores. The fruit is a small capsule.

While found at mid to high elevations throughout the Cascades and much of the west, little prince’s-pine is never abundant. If you look hard, however, you can find at least a few plants at almost every site in this book.
**PINEDROPS**
*Pteróspora andromèdea*

Perennial • 1–3’ (30–90 cm)

Dry coniferous forest

Late: August

As its name implies, pinedrops grow near pines as well as other conifers. This is because of the fungal association that allows it to obtain its nutrients from the trees. Its drooping, urn-shaped flowers are whorled around a tall red stalk covered with sticky white hairs. The 10 stamens are hidden within the creamy corolla.

Pinedrops is found across the west and at mid to high elevations in much of Oregon. It can be seen occasionally in drier forests of the Cascades. When fungi and conditions are right for one mycotrophic species, others are often present as well. Browder Ridge, Youngs Rock, Castle Rock, and Tidbits are excellent places to see pinedrops along with other interesting non-chorophyll plants.

**CANDYSTICK, SUGARSTICK**
*Allótropa virgàta*

Perennial • 6–18” (15–45 cm)

Coniferous forest

Late: July to early August

Candystick has to take the prize for the most bizarre wildflower in our area. Its tall stalk is conspicuously striped red and white, with white scale-like leaves and bracts. Numerous squat flowers sit on short pedicels along most of the stalk. Each has 5 short whitish sepals cupped around a fat purple pistil and 10 large, purple, protruding anthers.

Candystick is found only in the west: from British Columbia to California and Montana. In Oregon it is infrequent from the southwest up through the Cascades. It is abundant at the beginning of the Crescent Mountain trail and is also seen at Whitehorse Meadows, Browder Ridge, and Castle Rock.

**INDIAN PIPE**
*Monótopa uniflòra*

Perennial • 4–12” (10–30 cm)

Dense coniferous woods

Late: August

The ghostly white flowers of Indian pipe always come as a surprise pushing their way out of the duff in dark forests. The waxy flowers nod as they emerge but become erect as they mature. As the species name indicates, there is only one flower per stalk. The leaves are reduced to white scales on the stem. The entire plant turns black as it ages. Because they bloom so late, they are easily missed, but the dried stalks often survive the winter, giving some evidence of their existence.

Indian pipe ranges across Canada, most of the US except for the Rocky Mountain states, and into Mexico, Central and South America, as well as parts of Asia. It is found occasionally in the Cascades, mainly at lower elevations. The Youngs Rock trail may be the best place to see it, but try Browder Ridge, Heckletooth Mountain, Rattlesnake Mountain, and Castle Rock all have pinesap.
**FRINGED PINESAP**

*Pleuricospora fimbriolata*

- perennial
- 2–6" (5–15 cm)
- coniferous forest
- late: mid-July to early August

Another odd non-chorophyll plant, fringed pinesap has a creamy to yellowish flower stalk that resembles a pinecone dipped in wax. It only partially pushes up through the soil. The glabrous, 4-petaled flowers are fringed at the edges and held [subtended] by long pointed bracts that turn brown at the tips. Black-tipped, white berries develop from the superior ovaries.

Fringed pinesap’s range extends west of the Cascade crest from northern California through Washington at mid elevations. Though uncommon, it can frequently be seen at Crescent Mountain. Search for it at Tidbits, Browder Ridge, Patterson Mountain, and Youn's Rock as well.

**GNOME PLANT**

*Hemitomes congestum*

- perennial
- 1–5" (3–13 cm)
- coniferous forest
- late: August

Gnome plant is our rarest mycotrophic plant and the only member of its genus. Similar to fringed pinesap, it usually pushes its flowers straight up but barely above the soil. Most of the stalk and scale-like leaves remain underground. The white to cream or pinkish flowers are clustered together at the top of the stalk. Each has 4 petals that are partly fused at the base, unlike most of the related non-chlorophyll plants. They are pubescent, especially on the inside. At the center is the flat, egg yolk-like stigma. As the plant matures, its seeds develop in ovoid berries, and it turns brown.

Gnome plant occurs sporadically at middle to high elevations from the Cascades west and north to British Columbia and south to California. It is more likely to be found in the northern part of our area; with luck you may spot it at Cache Meadows.

**BROADLEAF LUPINE**

*Lupinus latifolius*

- perennial
- 2–4’ (60–120 cm)
- meadows, forest openings
- middle: mid June to July

Broadleaf lupine has palmately compound leaves with 6–9 relatively broad, ovate leaflets with sharp tips. The flowers are generally purple with a paler banner, have long petioles and are loosely arranged in a tall raceme. There are many varieties that differ mainly in the amount of leaf hair.

Broadleaf lupine occurs from southern British Columbia south to California and east to Utah and New Mexico. It is the most common lupine in our area, except in the south. It is especially abundant at Grasshopper Meadows and Crescent Mountain.

**BIGLEAF LUPINE**

*Lupinus polyphyllus*

- perennial
- 2–5’ (60–150 cm)
- streambanks, wet meadows, moist areas
- middle: late June to early August

*Polyphyllus,* “many leaf”, refers to the large number of leaflets—each palmately compound leaf has as many as 17. This, along with its preference for very wet habitat, makes it easy to recognize. The narrow inflorescence can be 16’ tall; the pale to deep purple flowers are arranged in whorls. The banner has a pale patch that turns deep red. Large stands of bigleaf lupine in full bloom are an impressive sight.

This robust perennial ranges from southeast Alaska to California and Montana. Look for a gorgeous display along Park Creek. It also grows at Bruno Meadows, Donegan Prairie, and Fish Creek.

**Fabaceae (Leguminosae) ~ Pea Family**

The pea family is enormous and variable, ranging from small annuals to trees. What unites the family is the fruit—a 1-chambered pod that splits along the sides and propels the ripe seeds. Many species—all of ours—have bilaterally symmetric flowers with 5 unequal petals, unique to the family and typified by the common sweet pea. The uppermost petal (banner) is large and often folded over the others; the 2 lateral petals (wings) enclose 2 partly joined petals called the keel. Within the keel hide the single pistil and, usually, 10 stamens with their filaments partly fused. The 5 sepals, often of unequal length, are fused. The leaves are usually compound and have a stipule where they join the stem. All members of the family, called legumes, are able to enrich the soil by fixing nitrogen from the air with the aid of bacteria that live in nodules on their roots. This allows them to flourish in areas of poor soil and to colonize disturbed areas like roadsides. Among the many familiar cultivated legumes are edibles such as peas, beans, and peanuts; forage plants like alfalfa; and ornamentals, including wisteria, redbud, and mimosa. Unfortunately, there are many weedy non-natives as well.
Sickle-keeled lupine
*Lupinus albicaulis*

**perennial • 1–3’ (30–90 cm)**
**dry slopes, open areas**
**middle: late June to mid-July**

In the Western Cascades, an occasional white (or rarely even pink) plant of the predominately purple-flowered species may appear, but this is our only regularly white-flowered lupine—although elsewhere in its range it is usually purple. The creamy-white flowers have no hairs on any of the petals and are irregularly arranged in the inflorescence. The keel is strongly curved and often not completely covered by the narrow wings. The mostly cauline leaves are palmately divided into 5–10 leaflets and are attached to the stems by short petioles. They are sparsely covered with short, flattened hairs.

Sickle-keeled lupine occurs from Washington to California, mainly west of the Cascade-Sierra crest. It puts on quite a display at Abbott Butte and is also found at Fairview Peak, Hemlock Lake, Moon Point, and Whitehorse Meadows.

Silver lupine
*Lupinus albus*

**perennial • 1–2’ (30–60 cm)**
**outcrops, rocky slopes, roadsides**
**early: mid-May to mid-June**

Also known as whiteleaf lupine, the most prominent feature of this perennial is its stunning leaves. Each leaf has 6–10 leaflets covered with flattened silky hairs that shine like silver, especially when covered with water droplets from morning fog. In our area the plants tend to be low-growing and somewhat lax, but they can be tall and shrubby with a noticeably woody trunk, especially to the south. The flowers are purple in racemes of 3–12” long. The patch on the front of the banner may start out white or yellow but soon darkens to red-violet. The back of the banner is pubescent.

Silver lupine is found mainly from southwestern Oregon south through California. Good places to see it include Sawtooth Rock Meadow and nearby Mt. June, Youngs Rock, and Tire, Heckletooth, and Rattlesnake mountains.

Dwarf or alpine lupine
*Lupinus lepidus* var. lobii
*(L. lyallii)*

**perennial • 3–4” (7–10 cm)**
**pumice, gravelly areas, roadsides**
**middle: June to early July**

More or less prostrate, this is the smallest perennial lupine found in our area. The leaves have 5–8 small leaflets and are on long petioles that arise from a woody base. The leaves, stems, calyces and seed pods are all covered with long silvery hairs. The purple flowers are in 1–4” racemes. A white patch decorates the front of the banner.

Dwarf lupine is found in the mountains from British Columbia south to California and Nevada. In Oregon, it occurs mainly at high elevations in the Cascades but also on the highest peaks of the Coast Range and other mountain ranges of the south and east. It is uncommon in the Western Cascades but can be seen at Whitehorse Meadows, Fish Creek, and Bohemia Mountain. An excellent colonizer of volcanic pumice and cinder, it was the first plant to recolonize Mt. St. Helens after it erupted. It is abundant along the cinder-lined roads of the Cascade Mountain passes.
**KING’S CLOVER**  
*Trifolium kingii* ssp. *productum*  
*T. productum*  
perennial • 4–15” (10–38 cm)  
open slopes and rocky areas  
early: June  
Clovers have umbel-like heads of slender flowers and leaves with (usually) 3 palmate leaflets and a stipule partly fused to the petiole. The long, white to pinkish flowers of King's clover have a very short rose-colored calyx. They hang downward, even before opening fully. An unusual feature is that the flowers don't reach to the top of the flower head, exposing some bare green stem at the top. The 3 leaflets are elongated and have sharp teeth and tips. The petioles of the basal leaves are long; those of the stem leaves are shorter. The entire plant is glabrous.  
Also called Shasta clover, this is an uncommon species found in the Cascades and parts of south-central Oregon, through western Nevada and the central Sierra Nevada in California. Look for this beautiful perennial at Cone Peak, Browder Ridge, and Whetstone, Bachelor, and Horsepasture mountains.

**LONG-STALKED CLOVER**  
*Trifolium longipes*  
perennial • 4–16” (10–40 cm)  
moist meadows  
middle: June to July  
Long-stalked clover is a variable perennial that may be glabrous or pubescent. The 3 finely toothed leaflets are elliptical to lance-shaped, about 3–4 times as long as wide, and pointed at the tips. The white to pink flowers are upright and have pubescent green calyces with very long teeth. Short rhizomes allow this species to spread widely across damp areas.

Long-stalked clover is the most common native perennial clover in the Western Cascades and occurs at mid to high elevations in much of Oregon and across the western states. It is plentiful at Fish Creek, Cache Meadows, Bruno Meadows, Blair Lake, and Quaking Aspen Swamp.

**HOWELL’S CLOVER**  
*Trifolium howellii*  
perennial • 20–30” (50–75 cm)  
wet meadows, swamps, streambanks  
late: mid-July to mid-August  
Also known as canyon clover, this upright, glabrous perennial is our largest clover. Its oval leaflets can be as long as 4” and are edged with tiny teeth. Large, ovate stipules are conspicuous at the base of the short petioles. The individual flowers are shiny, pale green with white tips, fading to white and then brown as they age. They are upright in bud but hang down upon opening.  
Howell’s clover is limited to a narrow region from the Klamath mountains of northwestern California to the southern end of the Oregon Cascades with only 2 small populations—at Monument Peak and Bull of the Woods—found (so far) north of Lane County. It can be seen more easily at Hershberger Mountain, Fish Creek, Hemlock Lake, and Donegan Prairie.

**WOOLLY-HEAD CLOVER**  
*Trifolium eriocéphalum*  
perennial • 4–18” (10–45 cm)  
dry meadows, gravelly areas  
middle: mid-June to mid-July  
Well named, this plant has distinctively woolly flower heads that are even more noticeable in bud. The soft white hairs are found on the edges of the long narrow lobes of the green to deep red sepals. Individual flowers are creamy white with a pink tinge and hang downward. A hard bend at the top of the long peduncle tips the flower head. Soft hairs also cover the rest of the plant, including the 3 narrow, finely toothed leaflets. The conspicuous clasping stipules are similar in shape to the leaflets.

Woolly-head clover occurs from southern British Columbia to California and east to Montana and Utah. In Oregon, it has an unusual distribution pattern, occurring in the Willamette Valley down through the southern end of the Cascades and the Siskiyou/Klamath area as well as in the Blue mountains and scattered other eastern sites. Rattlesnake Mountain, Abbott Butte, and the BVD Meadow near Twin Lakes are among the few places it grows in the Cascades.
**TOMCAT or SAND CLOVER**
*Trifolium willdenowii* (*T. tridentatum*)

annual • 6–20” (15–50 cm)
vernally moist meadows
middle: June

One of several similar, low elevation, annual clovers, tomcat clover is easily recognized by its long, narrow, toothed leaflets and flat involucre with numerous, even-lengthed, sharp teeth. The pink and white flowers have magenta calyces with 3 sharp points and are in showy 1”-wide heads. The stipules have many teeth.

Tomcat clover occurs on the west side of the Cascades from British Columbia to California. It can be seen at Castle Rock, Tire Mountain, Youngs Rock, Sawtooth Rock Meadow, and Big Squaw Mountain.

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**RANCHERIA CLOVER**
*Trifolium albopurpureum* (*T. macraei*)

annual • 4–16” (10–40 cm)
dry sloping meadows
middle: June

Rancheria clover is a pubescent annual, but, unlike our other annuals, it does not have an involucre. Its flowers are deep red-violet with white tips on the wings. Its leaflets are oval to oblong with a blunt end. Unlobed ovate stipules wrap around the base of the petiole.

Rarely seen in the mountains, rancheria clover is generally a lowland species but reaches into the Cascade foothills at Youngs Rock and Tire Mountain. Its range extends from British Columbia to northern Baja California.

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**WHITETIP CLOVER**
*Trifolium variegatum*

annual • 4–16” (10–40 cm)
vernally moist meadows
middle: June

Whitetip clover has small heads with fewer than 15 flowers that are deep red-violet at the base and white at the ends. It has sharply toothed, ovate leaves and an irregularly lobed and toothed, disk-like involucre. Few-flowered clover (*T. oliganthum*) is a similar glabrous annual with small flower heads, but its leaves are small and much narrower, and its involucre has no more than 10 simple lobes.

Whitetip clover occurs from British Columbia to California, Montana and Arizona. It is found at Tire Mountain, Youngs Rock, and Big Squaw Mountain; few-flowered clover at Castle Rock, Tire Mountain, and Sawtooth Rock Meadow.

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**SMALL-HEAD CLOVER**
*Trifolium microcephalum*

annual • 3–12” (7–30 cm)
dry meadows, grassy slopes
middle: June

Small-head clover has a dense head of up to 60 short, pale pink flowers with long, pointy calyces. The saucer-shaped involucre has about 10 simple pointed lobes and, like the calyx, stem and leaves, is pubescent. The somewhat wedge-shaped, oval leaflets have a notch at the tip.

This small annual occurs across much of the west. It can be seen occasionally from the coast to middle elevations including Tire and Big Squaw mountains, Sawtooth Rock Meadow, and Youngs Rock.

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**WHITE CLOVER**
*Trifolium repens*

perennial • 2–4” (5–10 cm)
disturbed areas, meadows, lawns
long: May to August

White clover is a glabrous perennial with heads of white to pinkish flowers that tend to reflex with age. The leaflets are oval with rounded tips and usually have a pale chevron pattern near the base. It forms large mats by rooting along the stems.

This familiar weed hails from Europe and is now found throughout North America, usually in disturbed sites such as along roads, trails, and parking areas.

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**RED CLOVER**
*Trifolium pratense*

perennial • 8–24” (20–60 cm)
disturbed areas, meadows, lawns
middle: June

Red clover is another perennial introduced for cultivation from Eurasia. Its leaflets are often decorated with the same type of chevron pattern as white clover, but they are much larger and quite hairy. Its stems don’t root, making it somewhat less invasive than white clover. Instead, it is taprooted. It has large round heads of pink flowers that sit on a leaflike bract.

Red clover has naturalized across much of Canada and the US but is much less common in the Western Cascades than white clover.
SIERRA or PURPLE PEA  
*Lathyrus nevadensis*

perennial • 12–24” (30–60 cm)  
open woods  
middle: June

Our native peas are perennials with angular stems and pinnately compound leaves that terminate in a tendril or bristle. The flat pod fruits resemble edible peas. Unlike vetches, they have **hairs on only one side of the flat style**. Sierra pea is a variable species with 4–8, **almost oppositely arranged, oval leaflets** and a terminal tendril usually reduced to an unbranched bristle. At the base of each leaf is a pair of small, **sharply pointed stipules**. The flowers are usually pinky-purple, fading to blue, in a 1-sided, raceme of 2–4 blossoms. In our area there are a few white-flowered populations and some with narrow leaves. These may be the result of hybridization with Nevada pea or just species variability.

Sierra pea is found from British Columbia to California, east to Idaho and Nevada. It is very common in the Western Cascades and can be seen on most of the trails in this book. White ones occur on Horsetasture Mountain; variable populations can be seen at Lowder Mountain and Youngs Rock.

LEAFY or OREGON PEA  
*Lathyrus polyphyllus*

Leafy pea is a robust, glabrous perennial with **10–16 oval leaflets** that generally alternate along the stem. The sessile stipules at the base of the leaf are **almost as large as the leaflets**. There is usually a small branched tendril at the end of the leaf; it may attach itself to other plants but isn’t really a climber. Hanging down along 1 side of an upright, long-stalked raceme are **5–15 pinky-purple flowers** that turn blue with age. Unlike our other species, the **edges of the calyx teeth** are fringed.

Leafy pea is found west of the Cascade crest from Washington to northern California but is fairly common at low to middle elevations in western Oregon. It is abundant along the Alpine Trail, and also found at Twin Lakes, Table Rock, Donegan Prairie, and Bearbones, Heekletooth, Big Squaw, and Patterson mountains.

AMERICAN VETCH  
*Vicia americana*

perennial • 1–2’ (30–60 cm)  
open woods, meadows and thickets  
middle: mid-June to July

Vetches are very similar to peas; the main technical difference is that the **style is hairy all around the tip**. American vetch is variable with 8–16, **small, oval to oblong leaflets** that may be glabrous or hairy. The tendrils are usually branched and grasping. The purplish flowers are in **short-stalked racemes of 3–9**.

American vetch is found from Alaska to California east across most of Canada and the US. It is quite common in the Cascades. Look for it sprawling on the ground or in upright tangled masses at Youngs Rock, Twin Lakes, and Hawk, Heekletooth, Bearbones, and Tire mountains.

NEVADA PEA  
*Lathyrus lanszwertii*

perennial • 12–30” (30–75 cm)  
open woods, dry sloping meadows  
middle: June

Nevada pea is a variable species with several different varieties. In the Cascades it may also be hybridizing with Sierra pea causing some taxonomic confusion. The type most apparent in our area (var. aridus) has 6–12, **nearly opposite, very narrow leaflets** with a simple terminal bristle and small stipules, and **purple-veined white flowers** that fade to golden yellow. It is generally sprawling.

A common Great Basin perennial, Nevada pea is uncommon in the Western Cascades but can be seen at Bachelor Mountain, Park Creek, and Castle Rock.

COMMON VETCH  
*Vicia sativa*

perennial • 1–3’ (30–90 cm)  
disturbed areas, meadows  
middle: June

Also known as garden or spring vetch, this is an upright or climbing perennial. Its pinnately compound leaves have **well developed tendrils** and **linear to oblong leaflets under 1” long**. The stipules are very small and toothed. The magenta (or occasionally white) flowers are in **clusters of only 1–3 on very short pedicels** in the leaf axils.

Originally from Eurasia and long cultivated, this vetch is now distributed across the country. Mainly found at low elevations in western Oregon, it turns up in the Cascades occasionally.
SPANISH-CLOVER
Lotus unifoliolatus (L. purshianus)

annual • 6–24” (15–60 cm)
roadsides, meadows, disturbed areas
early: mid-May to mid-June

Spanish-clover is an unassuming, small-flowered annual covered with soft, pale gray hairs. A variable species, it may be simple or well-branched, upright or nearly prostrate. The essentially sessile leaves have 3 elliptical to lance-shaped leaflets. The stipules are reduced to mere glands. A single pale pink flower, under ½”, with 1 leaf-like bract, extends out from the leaf axil on a relatively long peduncle. The glabrous pods are deep red or brown and quite narrow.

Spanish-clover is a wide-ranging species found across Oregon at all elevations and in much of the US and into Mexico. It is occasional in the Cascades, most frequently growing along gravel roads. You can see it at Groundhog Mountain, Blair Lake, Reynolds Ridge, Buck Canyon, Park Creek, and Carpenter Mountain.

NEVADA DEERVETCH
Lotus nevadensis

perennial • 3–10” (8–25 cm)
open gravelly areas
early: mid-May to mid-June

Lotus species differ from peas and vetches because, rather than a tendril, they have another leaflet at the end of the leaf, and their flowers are in umbels (or solitary). Nevada deervetch is a lovely, softly hairy, mat-forming perennial that has numerous branches emanating from a tap root. Each leaf has 3–5 ovate, gray-green leaflets and a pair of tiny black gland-like stipules at the base. The pretty bright yellow flowers may be tinged with red and are in umbels of 3–12 on short peduncles in the leaf axil. Only a few seeds are contained in the small curved pods.

Nevada deervetch occurs from Washington to Idaho, south to California and Nevada. It is found at middle to high elevations in the Cascades, Siskiyous and Coast Range. Look for it at Bachelor Mountain, Browder Ridge, Youngs Rock, and Cone Peak.

STREAMBANK LOTUS
Lotus oblongifolius

The leaves of streambank lotus have 5–11 oblong to lance-shaped leaflets with small stipules at the base. A fine layer of short white hairs covers the plant giving it a bluish or grayish cast. The flowers have a yellow banner that is often flushed and veined with red, especially noticeable in bud, and white wings and a yellowish keel. Just below each umbel of up to 8 flowers is a conspicuous 3-parted leaf-like bract. The peduncle that holds them is shorter than the leaves. Bog lotus (L. pinna-tus) is similar but is glabrous, has no bract, no red on the flowers, and has a longer peduncle that lifts the flowers well above the leaves.

Streambank lotus is found in the Cascades from Lane County south through southwestern Oregon and California into Nevada and Mexico. It grows in the wetland at Heckletooth, at the trailhead to Mt. June, in roadside ditches on the way to Patterson Mountain and Youngs Rock, and at Hershberger Mountain, Hemlock Lake, and Buck Canyon.

SMALL-FLOWERED DEERVETCH
Lotus micranthus

annual • 4–12” (10–30 cm)
meadows, open areas
middle: May to June

Tiny red buds open to ¼” cream-colored flowers, flushed with red. The flowers are solitary, with a 3-parted, leaf-like bract just below, and are on a short peduncle. The alternate leaves have 3–5 blunt-tipped, oblong leaflets and are usually glabrous, or only lightly pubescent with gland-like stipules. Many stems branch from the base of the plant and may by upright or prostrate. Early on, the stems are red. The mature narrow red pods are glabrous and noticeably constricted between each of the 4–9 seeds.

Small-flowered deervetch ranges from extreme southwestern British Columbia and western Washington to California. In Oregon, it occurs from the coast to middle elevations in the Cascades. It is a modest part of the meadow flora at Sawtooth Rock Meadow, Tire Mountain, Buck Canyon, Youngs Rock, and Heckletooth Mountain.
**BIRD’S-FOOT TREFOIL**  
*Lôtus corniculâtus*

perennial • 3–18” (8–45 cm)  
roadside, disturbed areas, lawns  
early: mid-May to mid-June

Bird’s-foot trefoil is an attractive perennial with umbels of 3–12 chubby yellow, sweet pea-like flowers, sometimes tinged with red. The leaves have 3 ovate to oblong leaflets on a short petiole and 2 more similar, sessile leaflets at the base, sometimes considered to be stipules. The actual stipules are gland-like. The plant is usually glabrous but may be pubescent and can be upright or reclining, the stems often rooting at the nodes. The narrow pods are up to 1.5” long.

Bird’s-foot trefoil is a weedy species, native to Eurasia, that has naturalized in disturbed areas across most of the country. In Oregon, it is found mainly on the west side of the Cascades. It is seen occasionally in the mountains, especially along gravel roads in the southern part of our area.

**BIG DEERVETCH**  
*Lôtus crassifòlius*

perennial • 2–3’ (60–90 cm)  
roadside, disturbed sites  
middle: June to early July

Big deervetch is our largest species of Lotus. It has pinnate leaves up to 8” long, with as many as 23 leaflets that are oval to elliptic with a tiny pointed tip. They are glaucous, and, when young, somewhat pubescent. The narrow flowers are pale green with reddish markings. They are in dense umbels of about 12–20 on a peduncle shorter than the leaves. A little ways below the inflorescence is a conspicuous bract with as many as 6 leaflets. The skinny pods are about 3” long. Once considered a subspecies of big deervetch, rosy bird’s-foot trefoil (*L. aboriginus*) has shorter leaves, that usually have no more than 15 leaflets, and an umbel of no more than 12 flowers on a peduncle as long as the leaves.

Big deervetch occurs mainly on the west side of the Cascades in Washington and Oregon but is found throughout California. While seldom seen on trails, it is common along gravel roads including those on the way to Grasshopper Meadows, Moon Point and Patterson and Carpenter mountains, and grows in the burned areas of Heckletooth Mountain. More common on the coast, rosy bird’s-foot trefoil also occurs in the southern part of the Cascades including Whitehorse Meadows.

**CALIFORNIA TEA**  
*Rúpertia (Psoralea) physòdes*

perennial • 12–32” (30–80 cm)  
forest edge, thickets, road side  
early: mid-May to mid-June

California tea is a perennial with a creeping rootstock that can form dense patches at the edge of woods and other semi-shaded sites. The leaves have 3 broadly ovate, sharply pointed leaflets, up to 2” long, that are dotted with minute glands. The petiole is 1–2’ long and has a small stipule at the base. A dozen or more greenish-white flowers are clustered in dense racemes at the end of a long peduncle. Their calyces are noticeably covered with long black hairs. The pods are also covered with black hairs and are short, usually containing only 1 seed.

California tea is an occasional plant at low to middle elevations west of the Cascade crest in Oregon. It ranges north just into southern British Columbia and south through California and also in Idaho. Look for this plant along the Alpine Trail, at Whetstone Mountain, Youngs Rock, Mt. June, and especially along roadsides.

**SCOTCH BROOM**  
*Cytisus scoparius*

shrub • 3–10’ (90–300 cm)  
clear cuts, road side, disturbed sites  
middle: June

Although it creates an undeniably brilliant show of color when its bright yellow, pea-like flowers blanket clearcuts and roadsides in early summer, this is a seriously destructive, invasive weed that can form dense stands, ruining habitat for native plants and animals. Originally brought over from Europe in the 1800s as an ornamental, it has since spread widely across low-elevation disturbed areas. It is an upright shrub with wiry, 5-angled, green branches and 1–3 oval leaflets per leaf. Once mature and dry, its hairy black pods split open in a spiral, thrusting out the seeds which can stay viable in the soil for decades. Plants need to be pulled up by their taproots or cut off at soil level. If cut higher up they can resprout.

Scotch broom has invaded many states on both coasts and even Hawaii. It is abundant in the lowlands of western Oregon, so far only occasionally making it up into the Western Cascades but is spreading along the roads. If you find stray plants of this weed, remove them if you can!