

Synoptic Table of Major Vascular Plant Families

(The 38 listed families comprise about 85% of species diversity in the SW)

Dicots

Family	Common Name	Form	Calyx	Corolla	Stamens	Carpels	Fruit type	Miscellaneous Comments
Salicaceae	Willow	TS	0-x	0	2-x	(2)	cap	Seeds comose, plants dioecious, flws in catkins
Polygonaceae	Knotweed	HS	5 or 3+3	0	3-9	(3)	ach	Calyx often petaloid, ach often triangular, lvs alternate, simple
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot	HS	5	0	5	(2)	nutl	Lvs alternate, simple, exstipulate, perianth green, inconspicuous
Amaranthaceae	Pigweed	HS	4-5	0	4-5	(2-3)	utr, pyx	Flws subtended by papery bracts, similar to goosefoot
Nyctaginaceae	Four o'clock	HST	5	0	5	1	ach	Bracts mimic sepals, sepals mimic petals, lvs simple, opposite stems tend to branch dichotomously
Portulacaceae	Purslane	H	2	4-6	4-∞	2-8	Cap	Lvs often fleshy, cap dehisces longitudinal or circumscissile
Caryophyllaceae	Pink	H	5 or (5)	5[0]	5-10	2-5	Cap, utr	Cap many seeded, lvs opposite, linear or lanceolate, stem nodes swollen
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup	HS[V]	3-x	0-∞	∞	∞	Fol, ach, ber	Lvs often palmately dissected, exstipulate with a sheathing base
Brassicaceae	Mustard	HS	4	4	4+2	(2)	Sil, slq	Petals cruciform, often clawed, often with acrid taste
Primulaceae	Primrose	H	5	(5)	5	(5)	Cap, pyx	Plants mostly scapose, lvs simple, basal, opposite, stamens opposite petals
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage	HS	5[4]	5[4]	5 or 10	2	Cap	Hypanthium present, lvs alternate or basal, exstipulate
Rosaceae	Rose	HST	5	5[0]	∞	∞ (5)1	Ach, drp, pom, fol	Hypanthium present, lvs alternate, usually stipulate
Fabaceae	Pea	HSTV	5	5 or 5z	5-∞	1	Leg	Lvs alternate, mostly compound, stamens usually 10
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge	HST	0 or 5	0 or 5	1-∞	(3)	Schizo	Often with milky latex, fruit 3 nutlets, flws unisexual usually much reduced
Malvaceae	Mallow	HST	3-5	5	∞	(5-∞)	Cap, schizo	Often with stellate pub, lvs alternate, palmately veined and/or lobed
Loasaceae	Loasa	H	5	5	5-∞	(3-7)	Cap	Flws showy yellow to white, often with stinging or at least rough, bristly glochidiate hairs
Cactaceae	Cactus	HS	x	∞	∞	(2-∞)	Ber	Usually spiny succulents
Onagraceae	Evening primrose	HS	2 or 4	2 or 4	4 or 8	(4)	Cap, ber, nutl	Hypanthium present, stigmas often 4-lobed
Apiaceae	Parsley	H [ST]	5	5	5	(2)	Schizo	Typically with a compound umbel, stems hollow, lvs compound petioles sheathing at base
Gentianaceae	Gentian	H	4	(4-5)	4-5	(2)	Cap, ber	Lvs opposite, exstipulate, basally connate, glabrous
Asclepiadaceae	Milkweed	HSV	5	(5)	5	2	Fol	Often with milky sap, lvs opposite or whorled, corona and other specialized parts
Apocynaceae	Dogbane	HSV	(5)	(5)	5	2	Fol, ber, cap	Often with milky sap, lvs entire opposite or whorled, carpels free at base, lacking specialized parts of milkweed
Convolvulaceae	Morning glory	HSV	5	(5)	5	(2)	Cap, ber, nut	Often with milky sap, twining herbaceous vines in N Hemisphere, corolla plaited

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Polemoniaceae	Phlox	H	(5)	(5)	5	(3)	Cap	Flws often funnelform or salverform, stamens often inserted at diff levels, 3 stigmas
Hydrophyllaceae	Waterleaf	HS	(5)	(5)	5	(2)	Cap	Flws usually scorpioid, unilateral, bristly hairy
Boraginaceae	Borage	H	5	(5)	5	(2)	Nutl, ach, drp	Ovary 4-lobed, scorpioid cymes, lvs simple, sessile, alternate, bristly hairy
Verbenaceae	Verbena	HST	(5)	(5)z	2+2	(2)	Drp, 2 or 4 nutl	Lvs opp or whorled, single terminal style, stem often 4-angled
Lamiaceae	Mint	HS	(5)	(5)z	2 or 2+2	(2)	Nut, drp	Ovary 4-lobed, 4-angled stems, style bifid at apex with unequal lobes
Solanaceae	Nightshade	HSVT	(5)	(5)	5	(2)	Ber, cap	Lvs alternate
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort	HS	(5)	(5)z	[2] 2+2 [5]	(2)	Ber, cap	Ovary not 4-lobed, stamens usually didynamous with a sterile filament
Rubiaceae	Madder	HST	4-5	(4-5)	4-5	(2)	Ber, cap	Stipules often leaflike, lvs opposite or whorled
Asteraceae	Sunflower	HST	x	(5) or (5)z	5	(2)	ach	Inflorescence in heads

Monocots

Family	Common Name	Form	Calyx	Corolla	Stamens	Carpels	Fruit type	Miscellaneous Comments
Juncaceae	Rush	H	3	3	6	(3)	Cap	Small grass-like herbs, 3-many seeded capsule, perianth scarious, green or brown
Cyperaceae	Sedge	H	x	0	3	(2-3)	Ach, nutl	Grass-like, stems often 3-sided, solid, nodes not apparent
Liliaceae	Lily	H	3	3	6[3]	3	Cap, ber	Fam often expanded to include Yucca and Agave
Agavaceae	Agave	HS	3	3	6	(3)	Cap, ber	Flws subtended by spathe-like bracts, lvs persisting in basal rosette
Orchidaceae	Orchid	H	3	2+1z	1-2	(3)	Cap	Lip often elaborate
Poaceae	Grass	H	2-3	0	3	(2-3)	cary	Glumes present, stems hollow with obvious nodes

Character Explanation

Form: T = Tree, S = Shrub, H = Herb, V = Vine

K = Calyx, C = Corolla, A = Androecium (stamens), G = Gynoecium (carpels)

Symbols:
 = fused by upper parts, = fused by lower parts, G = ovary superior, G = ovary inferior, Cz = corolla irregular, () parts united i.e. fused, [] = rarely, x = low unstable number, ∞ = numerous