

Key to Common Wetland Delineation Plant Families of the Northwest

- 1. Parts in 3's or multiples of 3.
 - 2. Flowers bilateral, lower petal a lip or bowl **Orchidaceae**
 - 2. Flowers radial or nearly so.
 - 3. Flowers of 6 tepals (3 sepals and 3 petals) that all look alike, 6 stamens **Liliaceae**
 - 3. Flowers of 6 tepals with 3 stamens **Iridaceae**
- 1. Part's in 4's or 5's.
 - 4. Part's in 4's.
 - 5. Ovary inferior, 4-8 stamens attached to petals **Onagraceae**
 - 5. Ovary superior, 6 stamens attached near the base of ovary **Brassicaceae**
 - 4. Part's in 5's.
 - 6. Flowers bilateral.
 - 7. Flowers with a banner and wings, fruit a pod **Fabaceae**
 - 7. Flowers lacking banner and wings, fruit nutlets or capsule .
 - 8. Stems square, leaves opposite, aromatic, ovary with 4 seeds **Lamiaceae**
 - 8. Stems round, leaves opposite or alternate, not aromatic, ovary with many seeds **Scrophulariaceae**
 - 6. Flowers radial.
 - 9. Compound or tightly clustered flowering heads.
 - 10. Compound flower head (sunflower type), leaves not sheathing the stem **Asteraceae**
 - 10. Compound or tightly clustered flowering head, leaves sheathing the stem (ochrea) **Polygonaceae**
 - 9. Flowers in umbels or single flower with numerous parts.
 - 11. Flowers in tight clusters.
 - 12. Small flowers in umbel inflorescence, stamens 5 pistil 1, leaves sheathing the stem **Apiaceae**
 - 12. Flower general larger, stamens and pistil 1-many, leaves with stipules **Rosaceae**
 - 11. Flowers either singular or loosely arranged but not in tight clusters.
 - 13. Flowers with >10 stamens crowded in the center.
 - 14. Pistils 3-many, often hooked tips, leaves lacking stipules **Ranunculaceae**
 - 14. Pistil 1-many, lacking hooked tip, leaves with stipules **Rosaceae**
 - 13. Flowers with 10 or less stamens and not crowded in

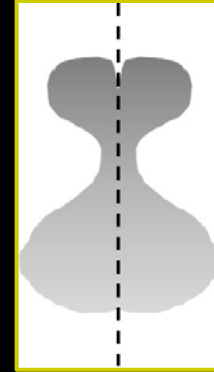
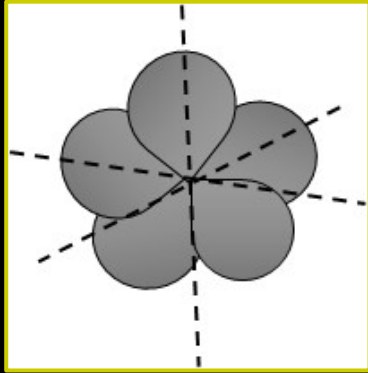
- center.
- 15. Petals fused.
 - 16. Inflorescence scorpion shaped, corolla throat with small appendages **Boraginaceae**
 - 16. Inflorescence a spike, raceme or panicle, corolla throat lacking appendages.
 - 17. Flower bell or urn shaped, anthers open by pores at tip **Ericaceae**
 - 17. Flower not bell or urn shaped, anthers open by splitting.
 - 18. Corolla a long tube, stigmas 3, stems mostly leafy but not whorled **Polemoniaceae**
 - 18. Corolla sometimes reflexed, stigma 1, leaves basal or whorled **Primulaceae**
- 15. Petals not fused or only at base.
 - 19. Leaves opposite, stem swollen at node, stigmas 2-5, petals lobed or clawed **Caryophyllaceae**
 - 19. Leaves alternate or basal, stems not swollen stigmas 2, petals not lobed or clawed **Saxifragaceae**

Flower Shape:

Radial (Regular) Symmetry

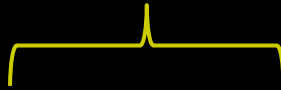
vs.

Bilateral (Irregular) Symmetry



Flower Arrangement:

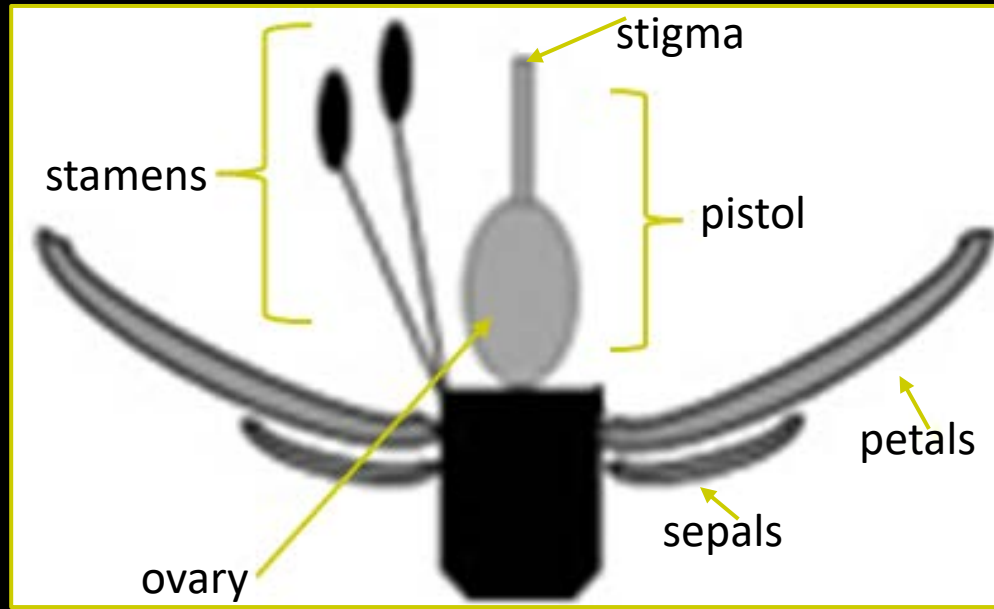
Clustered



Not Clustered



Floral Parts:



Petals Fused

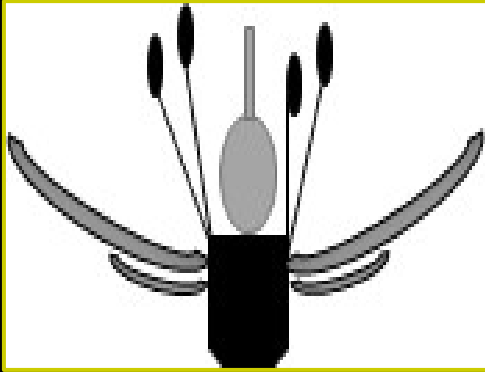


Petals Separate

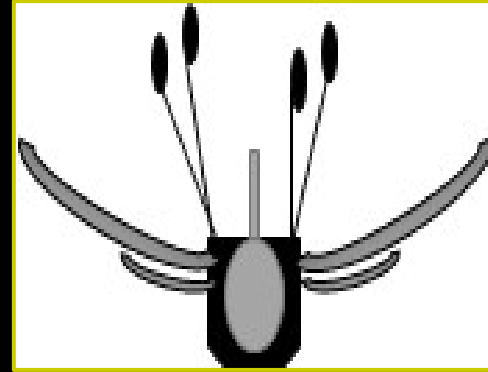


Ovary Position:

Superior

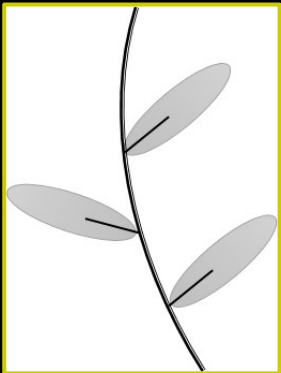


Inferior

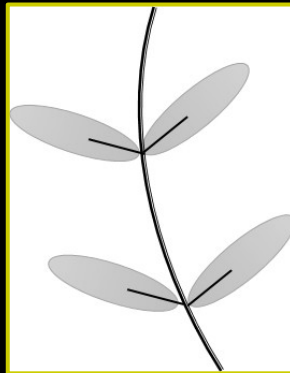


Leaves:

Alternate



Opposite



Parallel Veins

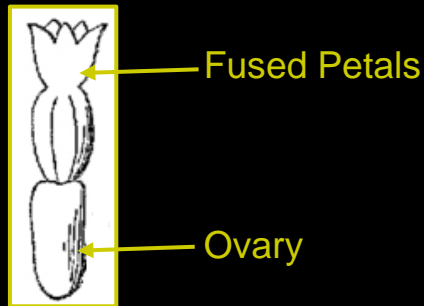
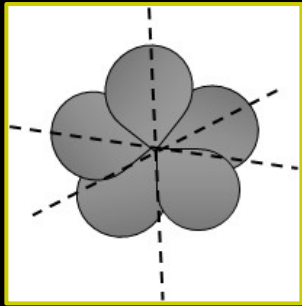


Asteraceae (Compositae): Sunflower family

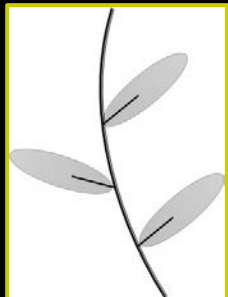
Arrangement: small flowers clustered in heads, with bracts underneath



Flowers: 5 fused, radial symmetry, inferior ovary

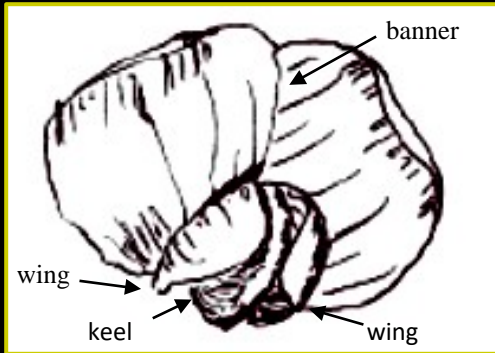


Leaves: leaf bases not swollen
Stems: woody or herbaceous

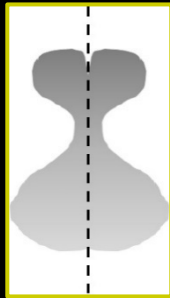


Fabaceae (Leguminosae): the Pea Family

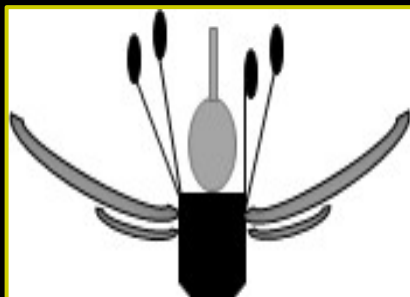
Petals: 5-petals, a banner, 2 wings, and a fused keel



Flower Shape: bilateral symmetry

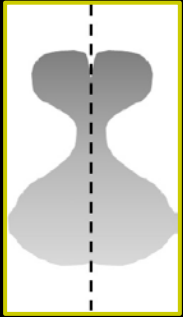


Ovary: superior

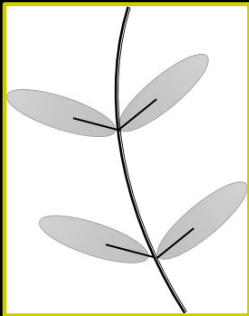


Lamiaceae: the Mint family

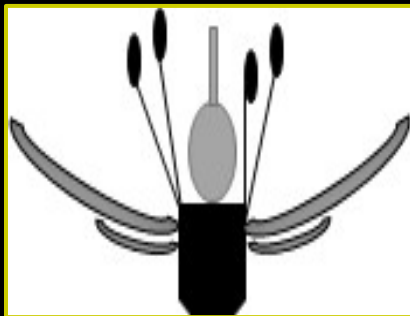
Flowers: bilateral (irregular), 5 fused petals, flowers often clustered in leaf axils.



Leaves: Opposite, often stems square, aromatic

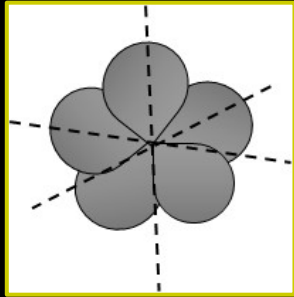


Ovary: Superior



Polemoniaceae: the Phlox family

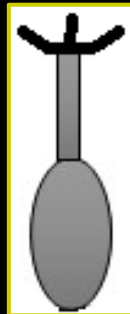
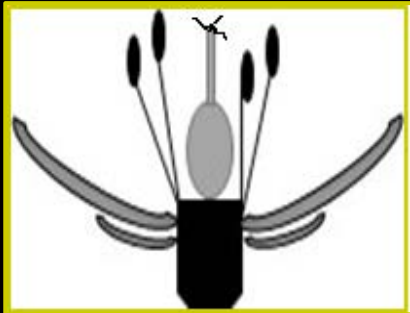
Flower: radial, 5 parts



Petals: 5 petals fused in a tube, 5 stamens



Ovary: superior, 3 stigmas

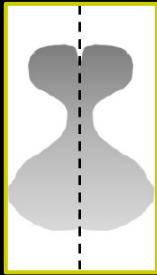


Orchidaceae: the Orchid family

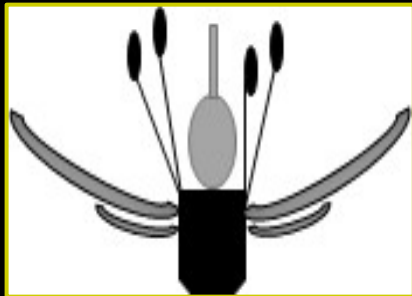
Leaves: parallel veins (monocot)



Flowers: Irregular, 3-parted, 6 tepals



Ovary: superior

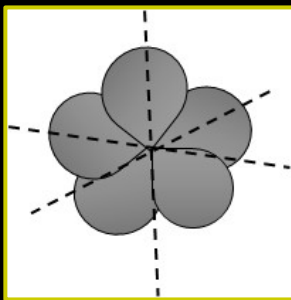


Iridaceae: the Iris family

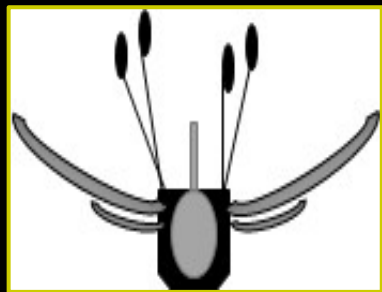
Leaves: parallel veins (monocot)



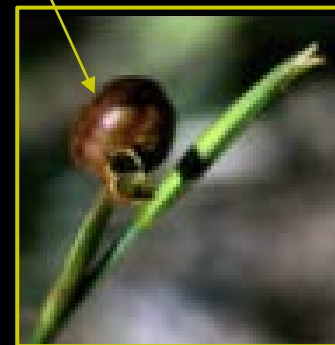
Flowers: radial (regular), 3-parted, 6 tepals, 3 stamens



Ovary: superior

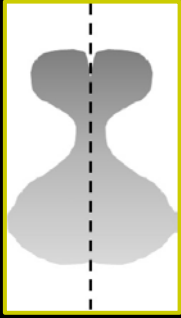


nutlet

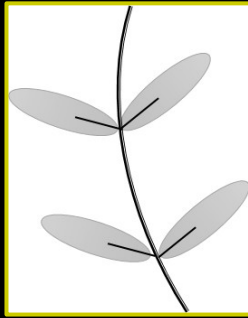
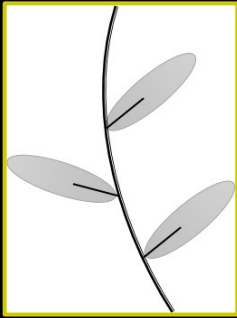


Scrophulariaceae: the Figwort family

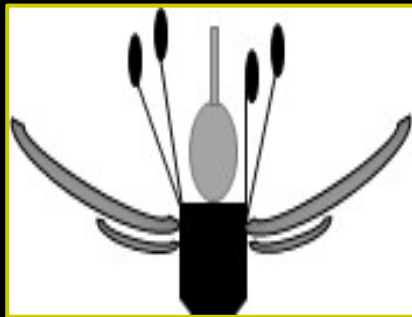
Flowers: Irregular, 5 fused petals



Leaves: alternate or opposite, round stems, not aromatic

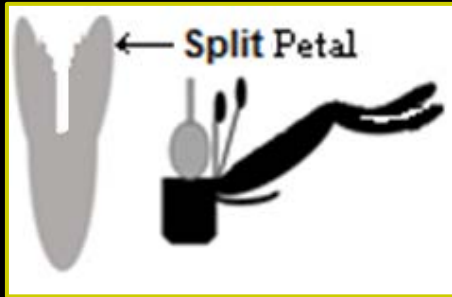
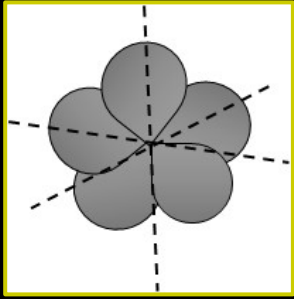


Ovary: Superior

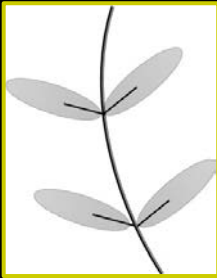


Caryophyllaceae: the Pink family

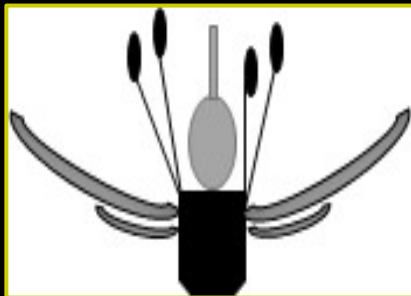
Flower: not clustered, radial, 5 free petals, 10 stamens



Leaves: simple, opposite

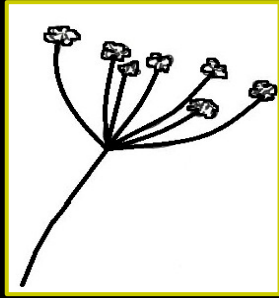


Ovary: Superior

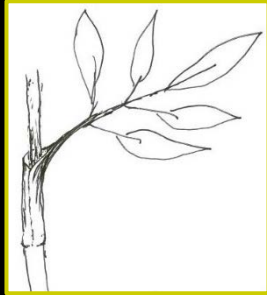
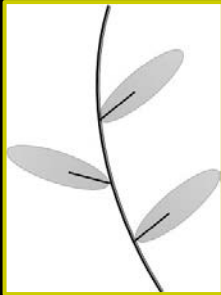


Apiaceae (Umbelliferae): Umbel family

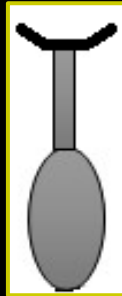
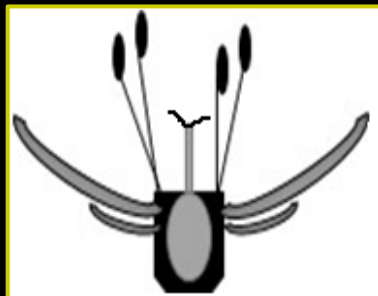
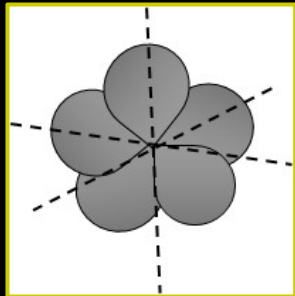
Arrangement: umbrella shaped cluster



Leaves: alternate, sheath the stem

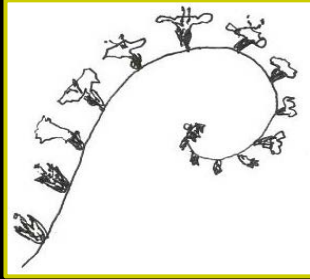


Flowers: radially symmetric, 5 parted, inferior ovary, 2 stigmas



Boraginaceae: the Borage family

Arrangement: Scorpion tail shape



Flowers: radial symmetry, 5 fused petals, ≤ 10 stamens, appendages

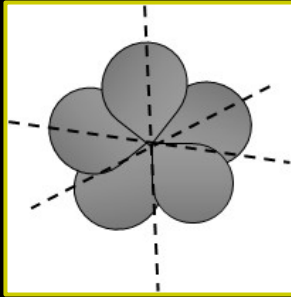


Ovary: superior

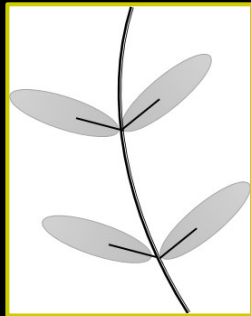
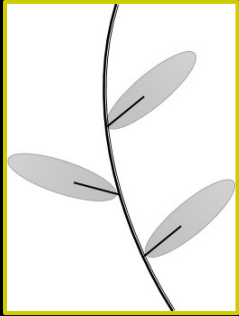


Onagraceae: the Evening-Primrose family

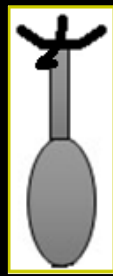
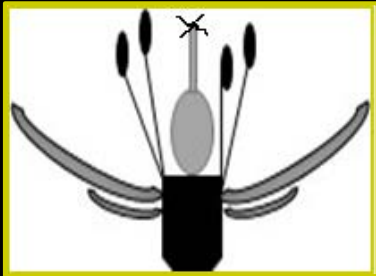
Flowers: radial symmetry, 4 free petals, 4 sepals, 8 stamens



Leaves: alternate or opposite

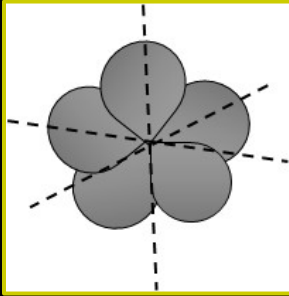


Ovary: Inferior, 4 stigmas

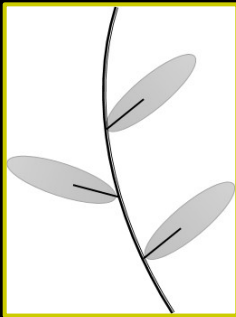


Brassicaeae: the Mustard family

Flowers: radial symmetry, 4 petals



Leaves: alternate



Fruits:

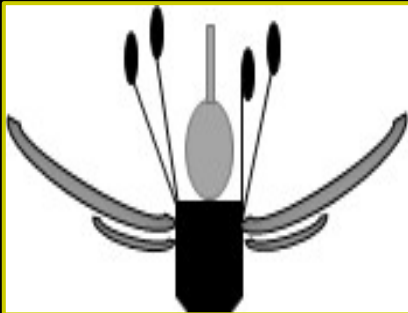
Silicles

vs.

Siliques



Ovary: Superior

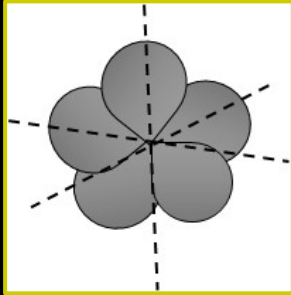


Liliaceae: the Lily family

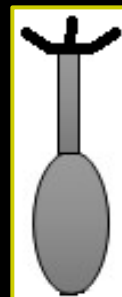
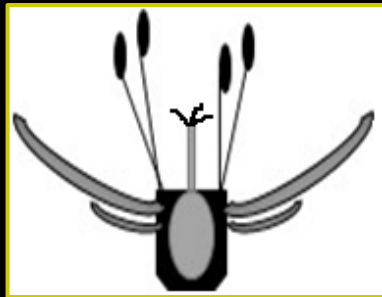
Leaves: parallel veins, monocot, 3-parted



Flowers: radial, 6 stamens, 6 tepals



Ovary: 3 stigmas, superior or inferior



Common Wetland Delineation Plant Families of the Northwest

