

Volume 13  
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# NW NATIVE PLANT JOURNAL

*A Monthly Web Magazine*

**Lawn got you  
hostage?..... p8**

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**Native alternatives ..... p11**



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The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest  
Native Plant Database  
[www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)  
Editor: Jennifer Rehm, Webmaster



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## Feature Articles

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An annually recurring issue:

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Wild Ginger, *Asarum caudatum*

Photo credit: Wasp32



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Pinemat, *Ceanothus diversifolius*

Photo credit: Vivian Parker



### Northwestern Lilies

Native Erythronium. pg ..20

Glacier Lily, *Erythronium grandiflorum*  
Painting by Mary E. Eaton

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# About this Journal

This Journal was created under the direction of Wally Hansen – a dedicated Grower, Aficionado and Passionate Lover of Northwest Native Plants.

This Journal is not 'commercial.' Our goals are:

**A** — To generate interest, even passion, concerning the magnificent Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest.

**B** — To help you create your own Native Plant Gardens, large or small, for home or work.

**C** — To help you propagate and "grow on" those species that interest you the most.

**D** — To inform both Home Gardeners and interested Professionals of many disciplines concerning trends and news items from my little corner of the world.

**E** — To help the reader enjoy native plants more by understanding the historical and cultural role of native plants (i.e.–use by Native Americans, pioneers, early botanists, etc.).



"Thrift on the southern tip of the Holm of Heogland," [geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk)

Photo credit: Mike Pennington

Sea Thrift, *Armeria maritima*.

- deer resistant
- non-aggressive
- non-invasive
- not native, native to Northwestern Europe
- evergreen



# On the Cover:

## **Erythronium grandiflorum (Glacier Lily)**

*"There is a single species of Erythronium, native of Europe; three species are found east of the Rocky Mountains, and eleven of twelve are native of the Pacific Coast."*

Wild Flowers of the Pacific Coast by Leslie L. Haskin

The bulbs of these wild lilies are esteemed as food by those that know where to find them. But it is only here in the northwestern side of the continent where the Pacific Ocean kisses mainland with salty sprays that Erythronium are plentiful enough to reach dietary importance.

I've not yet eaten one, but I have gorged on their beauty beside a path or when they're sprinkled like stars in a meadow.

If you walk among them in mid-spring, keep an out for bees revelling in all that golden pollen.

This painting of e. grandiflorum is not dated, but was probably done somewhere between 1875 and 1930 I think. Glacier Lily likes to live a little higher on the mountain than I usually get to, but I found a photo of one showing off in the snow. See that one and a few more beginning on page 20.



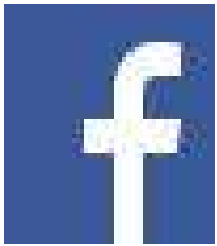


# Staying in touch

## The Wild Garden is on Facebook

Want to know when the next 'Journal' is coming out? Follow The Wild Garden on Facebook! Share comments, ask questions, stay in touch. Get the latest news about our website ([www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)).

Send me an email anytime: [nwplants@gmail.com](mailto:nwplants@gmail.com)



# Wildlife Corner

## Out back with the animals

Spring has bounced the environment around here--it is now vibrant and green and buggy and extremely attractive to wild visitors. Well, to me also. The door is standing open, Maggie out on the deck lying in the sun, her favorite place, one of them.

The loving squirrel pair was out grooming first thing yesterday morning. One would lie down on the little wooden platform and the other got to work along the patient's back. Then they would flip places amazingly fast and switch their jobs. They kept this up for about 10 - 15 minutes. You could tell it was not their first time, they were choreographed beautifully.



Can't wait to see who all will be stopping by this spring-summer. I hope bunches. I saw a little bird with a red head and a pink stomach the other day. Took it's picture but apologies for the quality of the shot. I'll always be a learner in the talent for photog aspect.

Need more plants, nursery trip will be soon. Going to call first to see what is in stock. On the list so far are Tall Oregon Grape, Mahonia aquifolium and Blueblossom, Ceanothus thyrsiflorus to step into the spaces that will be left when I get after the Rhodies. Those poor branches are thin, wiry, and kind of wadded up into a shrub. They are tied, taped and/or twisted so the blooms are mashed together in a voluptuous display. We're going to back to nature, forms and all. Warm, sunny days have encouraged us all.



# Garden chores to do now

## Pearly bits of wisdom & just plain common sense

Oh, where to start---

Prepare your compost bin (box, bag, pile, bucket...). See if it's time to turn it upside down or stir it or squirt it with water, whatever, if anything, it needs to be ready to receive.

Get out your tools (wheelbarrow or cart, shovel, potato fork, loppers, clippers, gloves, hat and coverup for your arms).

Cut, dig, trim and/or reshape whatever needs it.

How can you resist putting your hands in the dirt and enjoying this time of year?

At my house, so far this spring, we've planted seeds and some little plants in the three-tier concrete fountain I demoted to a planter last year that sits in the middle of the rose garden.



The small greenhouse I picked up has vegetables, herbs, and flowers started from seed. They are beginning to stand up and shout.

The clematis on the front porch are both blooming and growing like it's spring. They are planted one to a side and are to meet in the middle. They have to be nudged to get there in this first covering, but after that I think they'll only need some correction if they head off in the wrong direction.

The honeysuckles are all coming to life. The yellow one is on a little entryway arbor to southern side of the rose garden. The gazebo on the north side has the pink honeysuckles we put beside the six supports, they are awakening and laying waste to empty iron in a fever to cover the whole frame. These will send out divine fragrances all summer.

Photo credit: SpitfireTally-ho





# Held hostage by the lawn

An annually recurring issue: grass lawn vs. everything else.

Grass lawn is not inventive, economical, inspirational or exquisitely beautiful. It's just a background for beautiful things. Grass loves sun, so if you have shaded areas the grass will demand more coddling=more \$

Spaces carved out of the main yard which are personally designed for your use are all the things a grass lawn is not. Less water and no mowing with natives = less cost and environmentally a plus.

Do you find this appealing? California residents have left their grass to die because of the drought. (Flickr / Kevin Cortopassi/ Creative Commons license CC-BY-NC 2.0)



*"Americans would rather live next to a pervert heroin addict communist pornographer than a person with an unkempt lawn."*

– Comedian Dave Barry

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Held hostage by the lawn, cont'd

Supposing you are interested in taking the plunge, checking all the options. You want to be liberated from grass.

First things first: Define your needs.

**Appearance** - How shall your garden look? How perfect? Is a variety OK?

**Time** - How much time do you want to spend on your lawn? Doing what?

**Cost** - What do you want to spend on capital outlay and on maintenance?

**Use** - What will you do there? Design your dream garden rooms? Include kitchen or dining?

I recommend research. Tour through neighborhoods near and far. It's a designer's education. A convertible would be perfect for this.

A tip for opening your mind: look at objects as though you have never seen them before and ask yourself, "What could I do with this--what would it be good for?"

This would be a perfect time to do that research, if you have been dragging your feet. Ask friends for suggestions. Talk to landscape designers, nursery people, master gardeners at local extension services. If I were looking for advice on using native plants, I'd contact the crew at Bosky Dell Natives near West Linn, Oregon. Lory Duralia is just full of ideas--a botanical treasure!



Photo credit: JKehoe Photos

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# Held hostage by the lawn, cont'd

Get your design ready, your goals clearly defined. Draw it out on your tablet or on paper. Make it real with at least broad measurements so you can guesstimate how much of any products you'll need.

Also helpful is knowing the amount of light and type of environment each area in your landscape has to offer.

When you know your needs, you can make some intelligent choices for non-grass (and native) plants.



Pollinator garden

Photo credit: London Permaculture Flickr through a Creative Commons license.

Note: The word "native" for our purposes means "native in your area." Pretty much any plant is native somewhere. You want a species whose origin is indigenous to your spot in the world. A plant native to the jungles of Brazil will probably not thrive in a Minnesota garden's climate.

This is important when considering plants for your garden. In the retail world, not everything labeled "native" means "native to your garden." Too often, it's just a buzz word that means about as much as "new" or "improved." We are interested in plants native to the Pacific Northwest.

At one time, the City of San Diego offered a rebate for replacing grass lawns with water-wise native plants. Does your city?





# Native alternatives

## Instead of grass . . .

Less water and mowing with these natives = less labor, less cost and a plus for the environment. Here are some plants native to the Pacific Northwest to consider as alternatives to the standard grass profiles we see every day.



**American Speedwell, *Veronica americana***

Shade, high water use

Photo credit: Luigi Rignanesi



**Arctic Pearlwort, *Sagina saginoides***. open fields or meadows, drought tolerant Photo credit, foliage: Faerthen, Photo credit, flower: Steve Martin

**Aromatic Aster, *Symphotrichum oblongifolium***, part shade to full sun, well-drained moist to dry soils, Photo credit, foliage: Quadell; Photo credit, flowers: US Fish/Wildlife



**Baby Blue Eyes, *Nemophila menziesii***

part shade to part sun, moist, well drained

Photo credit: Jnn Flower



[⇒More⇒](#)



# Native alternatives, cont'd

**Broadleaf  
Stonecrop,  
*Sedum*  
*spathulifolium***

part shade to full  
sun, drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Walter  
Siegmund



**Bunchberry,  
*Cornus*  
*unalaschensis***

shade, bogs,  
loamy  
wetlands

Photo credit:  
Brewbooks



**California  
Bent Grass,  
*Agrostis*  
*pallens***

part shade to  
full sun,  
drainage

Photo credit:  
Robert Steers,  
NPS



**Butterflyweed,  
*Asclepias*  
*tuberosa***

full sun, dry  
sand or gravel

Photo credit:  
H. Zell

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# Native alternatives, cont'd

**California  
Fescue,  
*Festuca  
californica***

part shade to  
full sun, drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Daderot Re-  
gional Parks  
Botanic Garden,  
Berkeley, CA



**Cascade  
Barberry,  
*Mahonia  
nervosa***

open or shaded  
woods, drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Meggar

**Canadian Wild  
Ginger,  
*Asarum  
canadense***

part shade to  
full shade, moist

Photo credit:  
Wasp32



**Chia, *Salvia  
columbariae***

sun, dry

Photo credit:  
Jarek Tuszynski,  
Joshua Tree  
National Park

[⇒ More ⇒](#)



# Native alternatives, cont'd

**Dune Sedge,  
*Carex pansa***

part to full sun,  
water as  
needed

Photo credit:  
Tortie tude



**Dutch White  
Clover,  
*Trifolium  
repens***

part shade to  
full sun,  
drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Forest and  
Kim Starr



**Dwarf St Johns  
Wort,  
*Hypericum  
mutilus***

part shade to  
some sun,  
medium water

Photo credit:  
Forest and Kim  
Starr



**Lance-leaf  
Stonecrop,  
*Sedum  
lanceolatum***

part shade to  
full sun,  
drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Walter  
Siegmond



[⇒More⇒](#)



# Native alternatives, cont'd

**Leafy Reed  
Grass,  
*Calamagrostis  
foliosa***  
part to full sun,  
drainage  
Photo credit:  
Ijon



**Little  
Bluestem,  
*Schizachyrium  
scoparium***  
sun, part shade,  
dry  
Photo credit:  
Montrealais  
JBM

**Ledge  
Stonecrop,  
*Rhodiola  
integrifolia*  
ssp.  
*Integrifolia***  
shade  
tolerant, low  
water tolerant  
Photo credit:  
Miguel Vieira



**Mahala Mat,  
*Ceanothus  
prostratus***  
shade or sun,  
drainage, drought  
tolerant  
Photo credit:  
Chaney Swiney

[↔More↔](#)



# Native alternatives, cont'd

**Oregon  
Stonecrop,  
*Sedum  
oreganum***

part shade to  
full sun, drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Walter  
Siegmund



**Pinemat,  
*Ceanothus  
diversifolius***

shade or sun,  
drainage, drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Vivian Parker



**Pearly-  
Everlasting,  
*Anaphalis  
margaritacea***

part to full sun,  
dry

Photo credit: H.  
Zell



**Prairie  
Dropseed,  
*Sporobolus  
heterolepis***

part shade to  
full sun, drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Daderot, Denver  
Botanic Gardens



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# Native alternatives, cont'd

**Prickly  
Sandwort,  
*Arenaria  
aculeata***  
part to full  
shade, drainage  
Photo credit:  
Gary A. Morse



**Red Fescue,  
*Festuca rubra***  
part shade to full  
sun, drought  
tolerant  
Photo credit:  
Javier martin

**Purple  
Sage,  
*Salvia  
dorrif***  
sun, dry  
Photo  
credit: Dcrjsr



**Roseflower  
Stonecrop,  
*Sedum laxum***  
part shade to full  
sun, drought  
tolerant  
Photo credit: Keir  
Morse

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Native alternatives, cont'd

**Sea Pink,  
*Armeria  
maritima***

part shade to full  
sun hardy,  
dry, sandy, saline

Photo credit:  
Mike

Pennington,  
Thrift on the  
southern tip of  
the Holm of  
Heogland,  
geograph.org.uk



**Spreading  
Stonecrop,  
*Sedum  
divergens***

part to full sun,  
drought  
tolerant

Photo credit:  
Stan Shebs



**Sierra  
Stonecrop,  
*Sedum  
obtusatum***

part shade  
to full sun,  
drought  
tolerant

Photo  
credit: Eric  
in SF



**Sweet After  
Death, *Achlys  
triphylla***

part to full  
shade, moist

Photo credit:  
Walter  
Siegmund



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# Native alternatives, cont'd

**Switchgrass,  
*Panicum  
virgatum***

part shade to full  
sun, dry to  
moist soils

Photo credit: S.  
E. Wilco



**Twinflower,  
*Linnaea  
borealis***

shade to sun,  
drought tolerant

Photo credit:  
Walter  
Siegmund

**Trailing  
Pearlwort,  
*Sagina  
decumbens***

open fields or  
meadows,  
drought tolerant

Photo credit:  
Whidbey and  
Fidalgo



**Western  
Swordfern,  
*Polystichum  
munitum***

to light sun,  
regular moderate  
water

Photo credit:  
Peter Stevens,  
Cougar Mountain





# Northwestern Lilies

## Native *Erythronium*



A glacier lily pokes through the snow in Edith Basin, above Paradise. NPS Photo by Steve D. Redman.

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Northwestern Lilies, cont'd

## *Erythronium grandiflorum* (Glacier Lily)

At the bottom of this print are these words:

"Miss Drake. deb., Pub by J. Ridgway  
16g Piccadilly, Sept. 1 1835, P. Watts.  
sc."

I think this means Miss Drake (debutante) painted the species and it was published by J. Ridgway at 16g Piccadilly on September 1, 1835. Don't know what the P. Watts. sc. means.

If memory serves, painting botanical specimen was an accepted thing for proper young ladies to do as they were learning the finer points of then current society.

Of course, that may not be the true translation. Sometimes it's more fun to allow the imagination to lead.



[⇒More⇒](#)



## Northwestern Lilies, cont'd

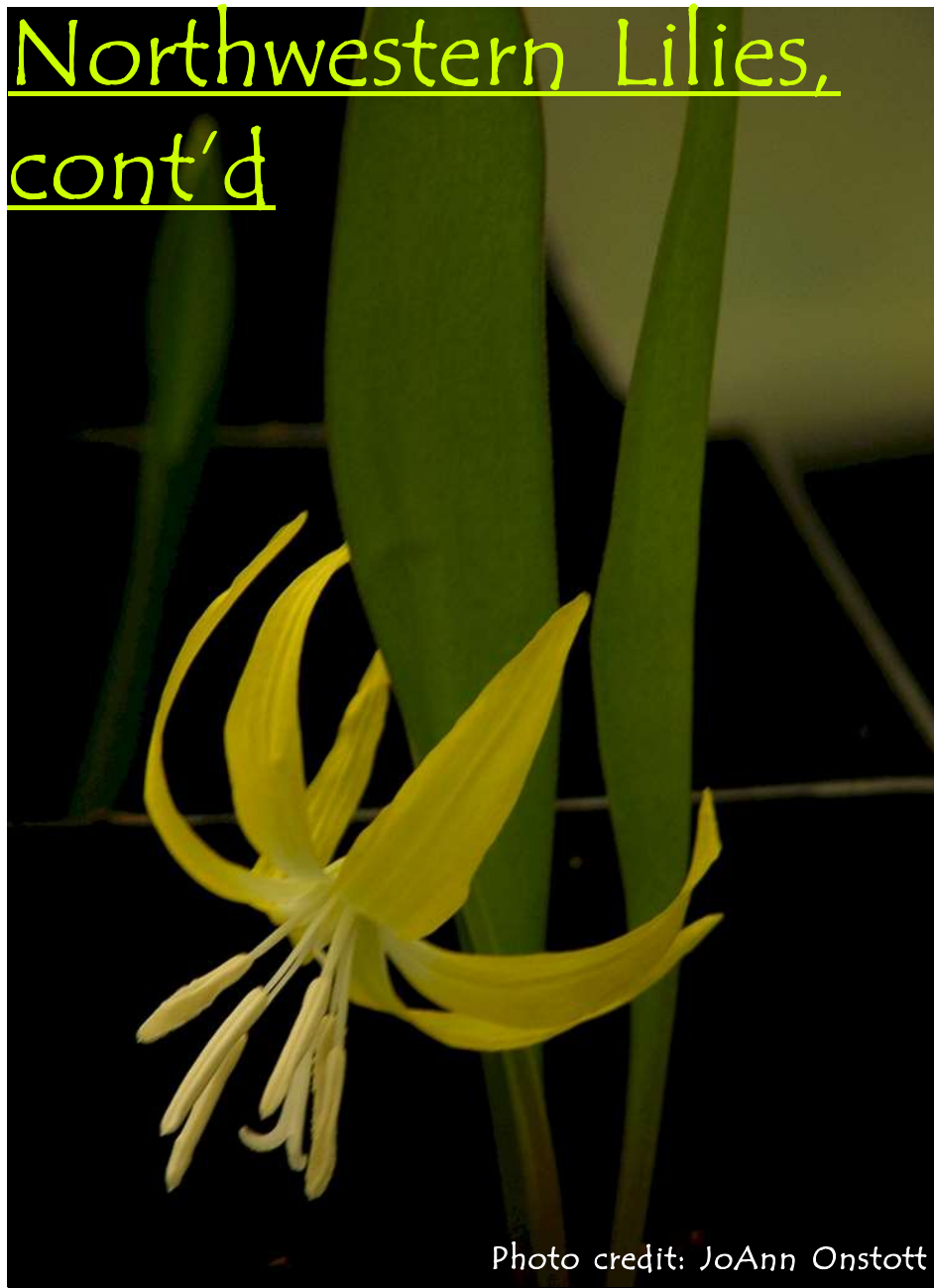


Photo credit: JoAnn Onstott



Photo credit: Eric 1961

[⇒More⇒](#)



## Northwestern Lilies, cont'd



In just a few days, the Fawn Lilies at Bush's Pasture Park will be in full bloom. This native perennial is scattered throughout the northeast quadrangle of the park.

They are not shy. They are abundantly arrayed right beside the parking spaces. They dance alongside pathways, daring passersby to stoop down for a sniff of their delicate fragrance.

Some years they have the area to themselves, sometimes the Camas join them for a blue and pale yellow montage.

Their flush of flowers starts right at the end of the Indian Plum's bloom or thereabouts and slightly before the Ocean Spray (*Holodiscus discolor*) comes into flower.

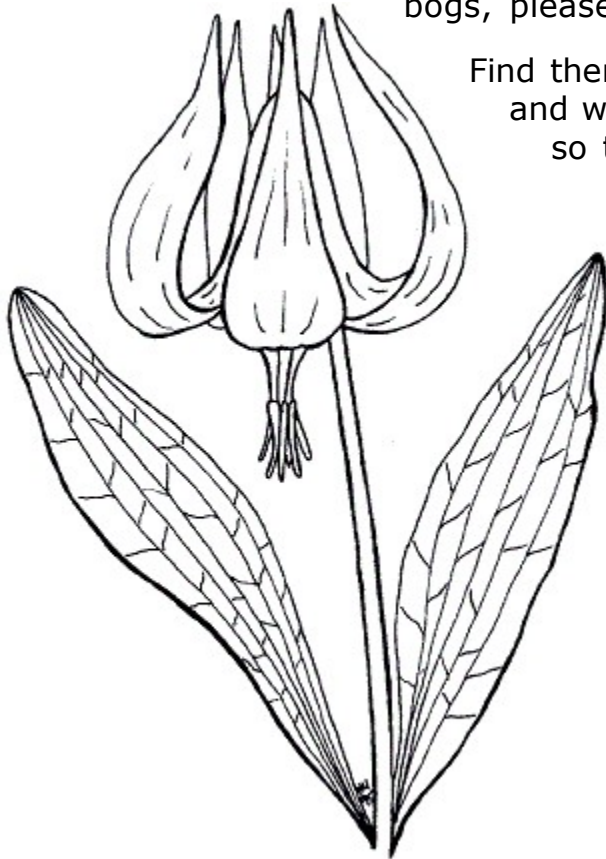




# Northwestern Lilies, cont'd

## *Erythronium revolutum* (Pink Fawn Lily)

Look for this flower right about now in woodland dappled shade, a little moist--just a little: shooting out those flowers makes a body thirsty. But no bogs, please.



Find them in the fringe of forests and where there's an opening so that a little sun peeks in.

Hmm, I know a mushroom (Chanterelle) who wants that spot in the autumn.

Between the two and the debris that accumulates and soaks back into the ground, it makes the softest cushion. What a beautiful system, eh?

Photo  
credit:  
Walter  
Siegmund





# BOLO: Hidden invasives

## Non-native plants in seed mixes or elsewhere

"Native" mixtures may have unhappy surprises. They are sold throughout the world to unsuspecting and hopeful gardeners as delightful, fast growing natives for wildflower gardens.

Even more confusing, there are plants classed as "invasive" available from nurseries.

Some of the more common invasives in these mixes are those shown at right and on the next few pages, with federal and local invasive documentation.

### **Carpetweed or Common Bugle, *Ajuga reptans***

Native in Japan and Europe, Introduced in the U.S.

Ecological Impacts: It is a slowly invasive prostrate groundcover that forms mats. It invades beyond its originally intended boundaries by sending out creeping, rooting stems that moving into adjacent areas.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Introduced, Invasive, and Noxious Plants shows this plant as Invasive in the lower 48 states and Canada. <http://plants.usda.gov/java/introduced?startChar=A>

Emerald Chapter of Native Plant Society of Oregon has this plant on their Suspected Watch List, reported as escaping, but data are needed. [http://emerald.npsoregon.org/inv\\_ornmtnls.html](http://emerald.npsoregon.org/inv_ornmtnls.html)



**Carpetweed, *Ajuga reptans*.** Part shade, moist, well drained.  
Photo credit, flowers: E and Lorax. Photo credit, foliage: Frank Vincentz

⇒More⇒



# BOLO: Hidden invasives, cont'd

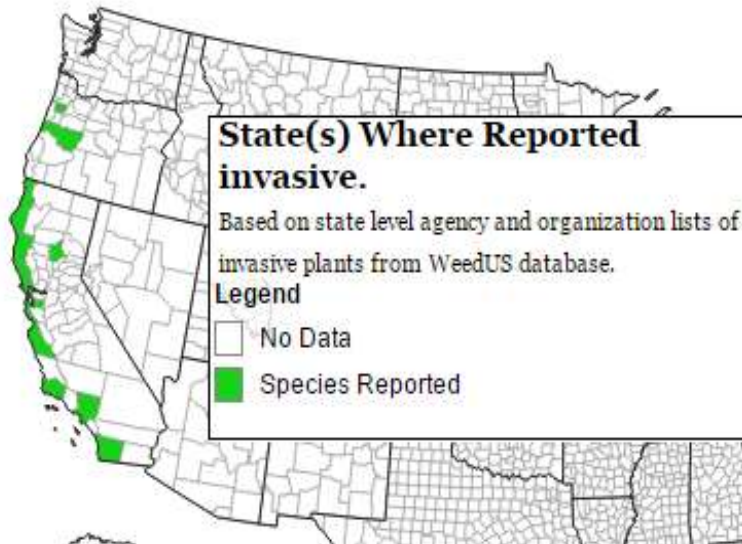
## English Daisy or Lawndaisy, *Bellis perennis*

Broadly scattered over all 50 states and Canada, this European native is attractive and seems harmless.

What little girl has not made a daisy chain or decided whether somebody loves them with this flower? And nobody sees to care if a small hand picks a bunch?

It's on watch lists all over the US, but has not reached invasive status. Caution is urged in using this perennial, as it can crowd out natives if given the opportunity.

This chart from the Invasive Plant Atlas has up-to-date classifications for the plant: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5178>



**English Daisies, *Bellis perennis*.** Part shade to full sun, drainage. Photo credit, pink flowers: KENPEI. Photo credit, white flowers: H. Zell

[⇒More⇒](#)



# BOLO: Hidden invasives, cont'd

## Roman Chamomile, *Chamaemelum nobile*

The flowers of this plant are most often used for tea--Chamomile tea has relaxing properties and is very much enjoyed world-wide. (A note here: I do not recommend putting milk in chamomile tea, speaking from experience.)

Countless nurseries offer the plant as a wonderful addition to the herb garden.

All this positive referring does not erase the fact that Chamomile is on the verge of the 'invasive' classification.

The Invasive Plant Atlas at <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=46299> indicates California has reported it as being invasive in the section shown on the map:

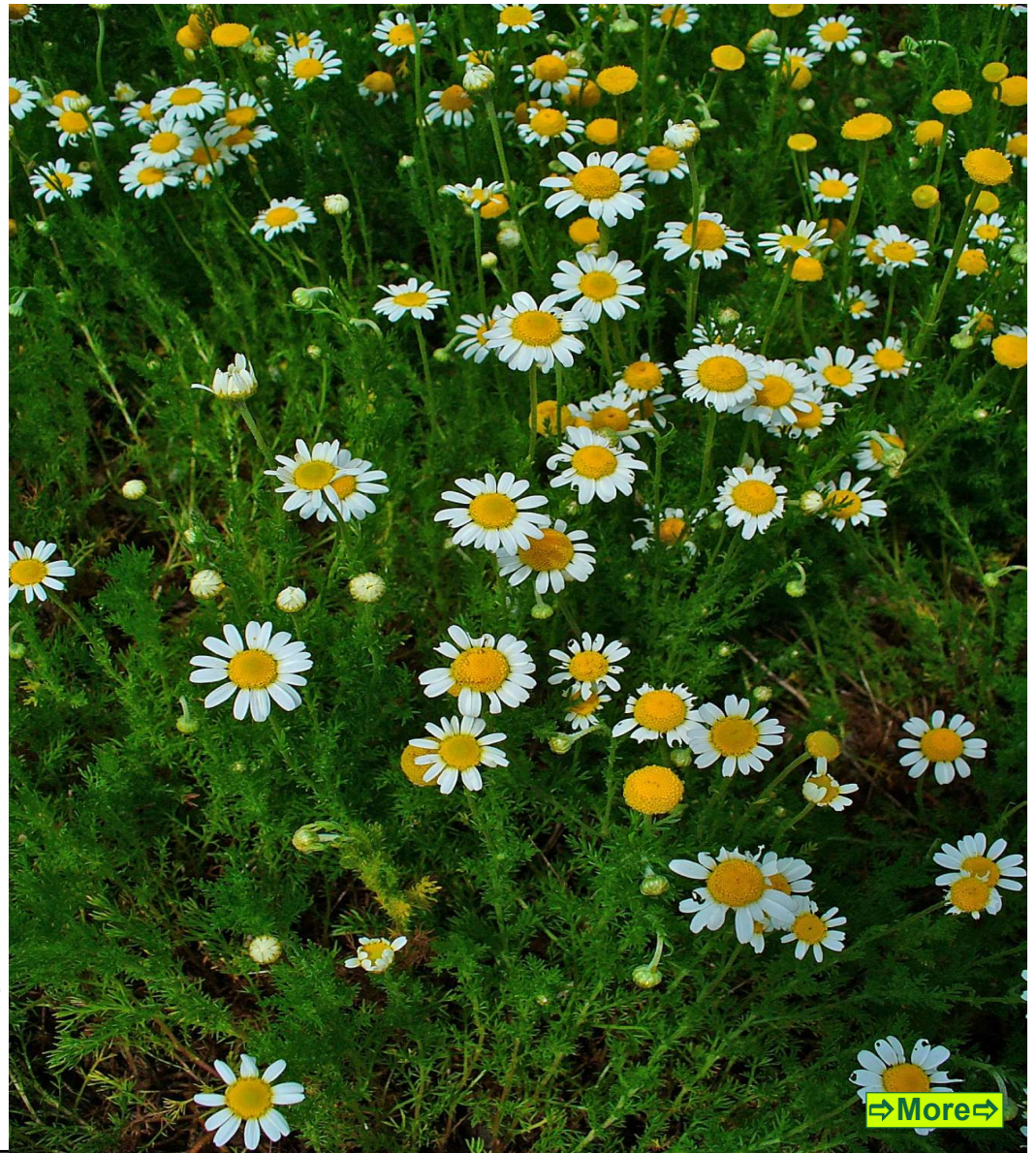


Tea notwithstanding, I find the foliage of Chamomile quite unpleasant.

**Roman Chamomile, *Chamaemelum nobile***

part shade to full sun  
hardy, drainage

Photo credit: H. Zell



⇒More⇒



# BOLO: Hidden invasives, cont'd

## Smooth Rupturewort, *Herniaria glabra*

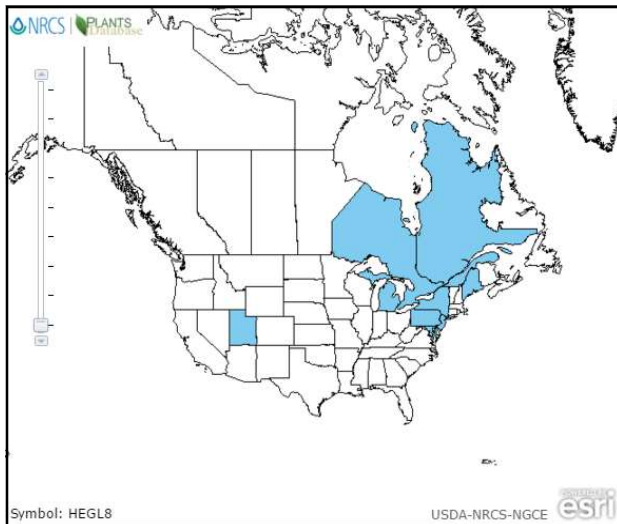
Smooth Rupturewort is native to Northern Africa, temperate regions of Asia, and Europe.

There are conflicting opinions about whether or not *Herniaria glabra* is invasive, but I think it is not proven either way yet.

This plant is included in the "Stepables" catalog so it is available through that route.

This plant is not to be confused with Hairy Rupturewort, a close relative.

The NRCS map below shows North American introduced locations at the eastern part of the continent and Utah.



**Smooth Rupturewort, *Herniaria glabra*.** Part to full sun, very drought tolerant. Photo credit, foliage: Michael Becker. Photo credit, flowers: Leo Michels



[⇒More⇒](#)



# BOLO: Hidden invasives, cont'd

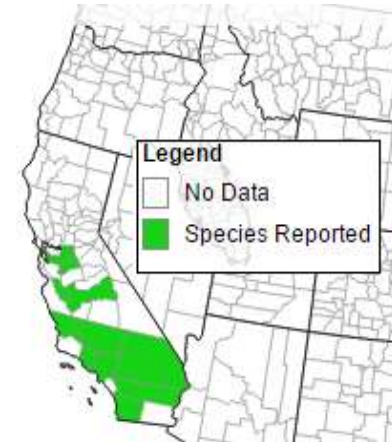
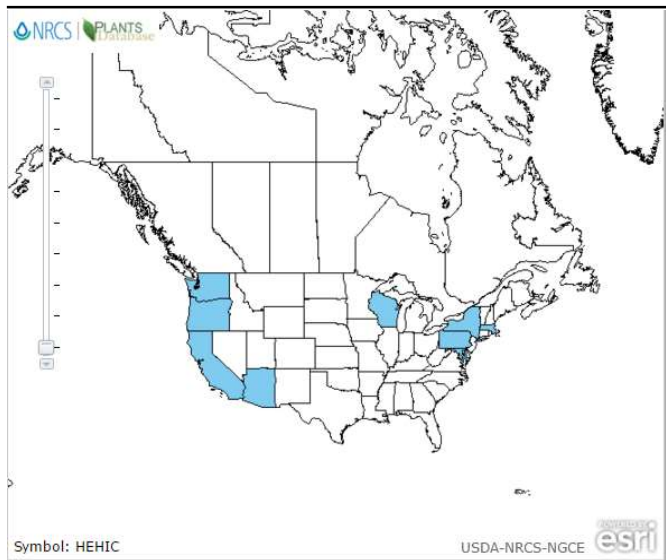
## Hairy Rupturewort, *Herniaria hirsuta* var. *cinerea*

This plant is native to Eurasia and North Africa, and it is known as 'introduced, invasive' in other continents, including Europe and North America, as an introduced species.

Hairy Rupturewort is listed as invasive by the National Park Service, a species of concern in Arizona's Pima County. The annual report on the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area includes the plant as newly documented in 2015.

The NRCS map below shows North American introduced locations all along the Pacific coastline.

It is more known here in the Pacific northwest than its brother, Smooth Rupturewort.



The Invasive Plant Atlas maps several California counties reporting the plant's presence.

<http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=35201>



⇒More⇨



# BOLO: Hidden invasives, cont'd

## Strawberry Clover, *Trifolium fragiferum*

The Missouri Botanical Garden, a well respected force in this field, notes:

*"Can be aggressive and is considered by many to be a lawn weed, particularly by those who try to eradicate it from their lawns. Was a favorite food of rabbits in the Kemper Center gardens."*

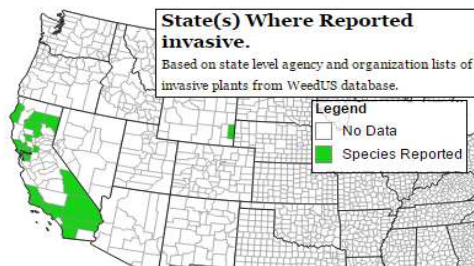
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=m650>

*"Environmental Concerns: Strawberry clover spreads primarily by stolons and to a lesser degree by seed and can spread into adjoining vegetative communities under ideal climatic and environmental conditions. . . . Contact your local extension specialist or county weed specialist to learn what works best in your area and how to use it safely."*

[http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_trfr2.pdf](http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_trfr2.pdf)

The Invasive Plant Atlas maps sightings from California and Wyoming. <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=23158>

strawberry clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*)



**Strawberry Clover, *Trifolium fragiferum*.** Part shade to full sun, drought tolerant. Photo credit, foliage: Carstor. Photo credit, flowers: Christian Fischer



⇒ More ⇨



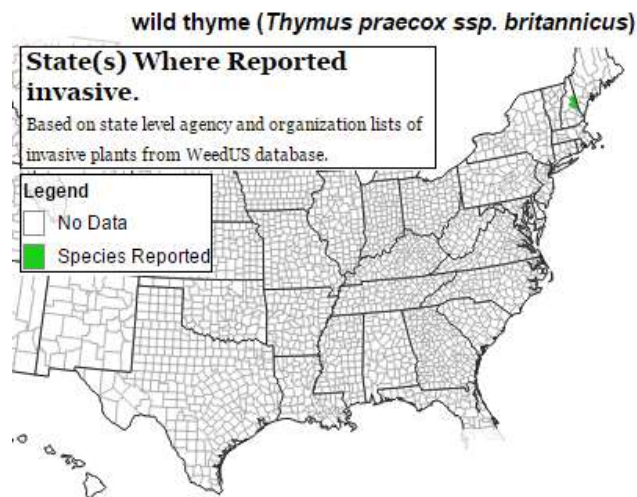
# BOLO: Hidden invasives, cont'd

## White Creeping Thyme, *Thymus praecox*

This thyme species (and *Thymus serpyllum*) is native to central, southern, and western Europe, introduced all over the world. It has escaped cultivation in North America, and is a weed or invasive species in some habitats in the United States.

There are cultivars with red, pink, or magenta flowers. Their invasiveness may be the same or similar to that of this species. Investigate before using.

The Invasive Plant Atlas maps only one sighting to date in New Hampshire. <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=78764>



**White Creeping Thyme, *Thymus praecox*.** Part to full sun, drought tolerant. Photo credit foliage: Qwertzy. Photo credit flowers: Stickpen





# BOLO: Hidden invasives, cont'd

## **White Mazus, *Mazus reptans***

In the description for *Mazus reptans* in Cornell University's, Home Gardening Site Growing Guide, we learn of this plant:

"One of the tiniest garden perennials, *Mazus* reaches only 2 inches tall. Forms dense mats blanketed with purple-blue flowers in late spring and early summer. Excellent for rock gardens and for growth between stepping stones."

Followed in the Special Considerations grouping:

### Special characteristics:

- aggressive - spreads quickly if not kept in check.
- non-invasive
- not native to North America, native to Asia.

*I find this knee-slapping hilarious because it defies my version of common sense when trying to picture an 'aggressive non-invasive' plant. I imagine it stretching out to where it wants to spread but excusing itself and tippy-toeing around any obstacle so as not to invade.*

*I recommend proceeding to your own lights if you fancy this species. But do keep an eye on it and be responsible to ripping it out of areas where it escapes and violates good plant etiquette.*

**White Mazus, *Mazus reptans***  
part shade to full sun, moist, well drained  
Photo credit: S.B. Johnny





# This & That

## Notes from Jennifer

Gotta confess: some kind of ailment has afflicted me. I want to go outside and poke around on the bushes and smell everything. I want to see who has moved into the nesting houses out in the birches.

I've been mostly indoors for almost a whole year, just beginning to get outside again. Maggie can't wait.

So, dear readers, I am going to go outdoors and play while the sun is shining.

Good luck! Good gardening!

Until next time,  
*Jennifer*

