

# Alternate Leaved Forbs

## SUMMARY

Species in this group are **biennial or perennial forbs** with **alternate leaves**. Species can be differentiated based on overall plant size; leaf size and shape; and flower size, shape, and color.

Scientific Name	Common Name	NR 40
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Creeping bellflower	R
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's tongue	R
<i>Digitalis lanata</i>	Grecian foxglove	P
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Helleborine orchid	R
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress spurge	R
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge	R
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Queen of the meadow	R
<i>Impatiens balfourii</i>	Balfour's touch-me-not	R
<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Sericea lespedeza	P
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax	P/R
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Aquatic forget-me-not	R
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Woodland forget-me-not	R
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine	P
<i>Securigera varia</i>	Purple crown vetch	R

## LOOK ALIKES

Many of these species have native look alike that are addressed in species-specific profiles.



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Scientific Name	Common Name	Leaves	Flowers	Seeds
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Creeping bellflower	Heart-shaped, coarsely-toothed; getting smaller and stalkless at top of plant	Bell-shaped purple flowers, 1" long, arranged on one side of stem; June – Oct.	50-150 seeds from each flower
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's tongue	Toothless, hairy leaves up to 5" long with pointed tip, smaller and shorter-stalked at top of plant	Racemes of 5-petaled maroon-purple 1/3" flowers; May- July	1/2" across, 4-sectioned fruited covered in hooked hairs
<i>Digitalis lanata</i>	Grecian foxglove	Stalkless, toothed oval to lance shaped; usually 3-5 parallel veins	Elongated spike at top of plant; 1" long flowers with 1/3" long bowl-shaped tube; creamy white with brownish venation; June- Aug.	Pod covered with hooked hairs
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Helleborine orchid	Toothless, stalkless leaves clasp stem; 1 1/2 - 6" long, oval to lance shaped with pointed tips and prominent parallel veins	Up to 50 irregular, 1/2 - 3/4" flowers arranged in spike-like cluster; lower petal forms bowl, 2 lateral petals flare out above center column; color from pale yellow to green to pink to deep red-purple; July – Aug.	Egg-shaped capsules
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress spurge	1/8" wide leaves up to 1 1/2" long, larger at top of plant; densely packed on young plants, so leaves may look whorled or opposite; dark green to blue green; milky sap	Flat to round cluster of yellow-green flower structures; pair of 1/4" yellowish bracts that look like petals surround 4 tiny flat glands; whorl of 10+ leaf-like bracts at base of terminal flower cluster; May – Aug.	3-sectioned capsule, 1/8" across, covered in tiny bumps
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge	Narrow leaves 1-3" long, larger at top of plant; milky sap	Flowers very similar to cypress spurge; plant overall larger; May – Sept.	Same as cypress spurge
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Queen of the meadow	Compound, toothed, 5-9 leaflets; terminal leaflet with 3-5 lobes; upper surface smooth; underside densely hairy; pair of stipules at base of stalk	Branching clusters of 1/4- 1/3" white, 5-petaled fragrant flowers bloom from bottom of cluster up; June- Aug.	Slender, twisted, ridged seed up to 1/4"; ripens from green to brown

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Leaves	Flowers	Seeds
<i>Impatiens balfourii</i>	Balfour's touch-me-not	Oval-shaped leaves with long tip, serrated edges	Long stalks of 4-8 pinkish-purple flowers; petals fused to form hood and twin lips;	1" pods, eject seeds when touched
<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Sericea lespedeza	Compound with 3 hairy leaflets with wedge-shaped bases	1-4 pea-like flowers in leaf axils; white to cream petals with purple at base; early fall	Hairy seed pod ~1/10" wide
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax	Stalkless toothless leaves; waxy layer gives bluish hue	Raceme of yellow flowers; petals form two lips, an orange throat, + long spur; May – Aug.	Pods ½" long; winged black to brown seeds
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Aquatic forget-me-not	Sparsely hairy, 1-3" long, ¼ - ¾" wide, smaller at top of stem; edges may have hairs esp. at base	Raceme of stalked flowers at tips of branching stems, bright to pale blue ¼ - 1/3" tubular flowers with 5 lobes + yellow center; flattened on top; May – Sept.	4-parted fruit splits into 4 dark, shiny, egg shaped nutlets <1/10"
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Woodland forget-me-not	Sparsely hairy, 1-3" long, ¼ - ¾" wide, smaller at top of stem; edges fringed with short hairs	Raceme of stalked flowers at tips of branching stems; blue to pinkish-purple ¼ - 1/3" tubular flowers with 5 lobes + yellow center; flattened on top; May – Sept.	4-parted fruit splits into 4 dark, shiny, egg shaped nutlets <1/10"
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine	Dark green, shiny, kidney to heart-shaped leaves ¾ - 2" long in basal rosette	Bright butter yellow 1" flowers with 8 – 12 petals; 3 green sepals at base of flowers; Mar – Apr.	1/3" seedheads with ~15 dry ¼" long seeds
<i>Securigera varia</i>	Purple crown vetch	Compound leaves 2-4" long with 12-25 leaflets; leaflets up to ¾" wide, 1 ½" long, rounded at both ends	1" round clusters of up to 25 pea-shaped ½" long pink flowers; lower petals paler than upper petals	Finger-like cluster of thin 2" pods that ripen to reddish-brown