

# Opposite + Whorled Leaved Forbs

## SUMMARY

Species in this group are **biennial or perennial forbs** with **opposite or whorled 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>Achyranthes japonica</i>	Japanese chaff flower	P
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common teasel	R
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Cut-leaved teasel	R
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Hairy willow herb	P
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Hemp nettle	R
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	White bedstraw	R
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Policeman's helmet	P
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabiosa / blue buttons	R
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Moneywort / creeping Jenny	R
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	Garden yellow loosestrife	R
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	R
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Garden valerian	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>Achyranthes japonica</i>	Japanese chaff flower	Opposite, oval to elliptic, toothless leaves with wavy edges	Tight clusters of spikes with tiny flowers with no petals; bottle-brush appearance; late summer	Small fruits lay flat against spikes; pair of bracts
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common teasel	Opposite, oblong, prickly, unlobed, join in cup around stem; up to 1 ½' long	Egg-shaped spiky flowerhead with tiny purple flowers; bracts from base longer than flowerhead; June – Oct.	Tiny seeds form in spiky flowerhead
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Cut-leaved teasel	Opposite, oblong, prickly, lobed, join in cup around stem; up to 1 ½' long	Egg-shaped spiky flowerhead with tiny white flowers; bracts from base shorter than flowerhead; July - Sept.	Tiny seeds form in spiky flowerhead
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Hairy willow herb	Opposite, stalkless 2-5" long lance-shaped leaves with sharply toothed edges, prominent central vein	¾" deep pink flowers with 4 notched petals arise from leaf axils; July – Aug.	2-3" long tubular capsule of small, flattened seeds with hairy tufts
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Hemp nettle	Opposite, 2 ½" long, hairy, egg-shaped, pointed tip, serrated edges	Whorls of 2-6 flowers at top of plant; pink to purple ¾" tubular flowers with broad upper lip and 3-parted lower lip; June – Sept.	Each flower matures to dark-brown fruit with 4 seeds
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	White bedstraw	Whorls of 6-8 oblong 3/8 – 1" long leaves; sharp point at tip; hairless, smooth, with rough edges	Branching clusters of ¼" creamy to greenish-white 4-petaled flowers; June – Sept.	Smooth, 1mm long fruit splits to 2 seeds

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Leaves	Flowers	Seeds
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Policeman's helmet	Opposite or whorled, lance-oval shaped, toothed, 6" leaves with pointed tip	5-parted white to pink to purple, spurred flowers arise from leaf axils; June – Oct.	Seed pods ~1" long
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabiosa / blue buttons	Opposite, basal, 3-8" long, coarsely toothed or divided; densely hairy; smaller at top of stem	1-1 ½" dome-shaped flowerheads with tiny 4-lobed pink to lilac flowers; 2 layers of leaf-like bracts with white hairs on edges; June – Sept.	Dome-shaped seed head with ¼" hairy, angular seeds
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Moneywort / creeping Jenny	Opposite, round, shiny, evergreen, ¾ - 1", toothless	¾" cup-like, 5-petaled yellow flowers in leaf axils; June – Aug.	Capsules with 1-5 small seeds
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	Garden yellow loosestrife	Opposite or whorled, lance to oval leaves 2 ¾ - 4 ¾" long, ½ - 1 ½" wide; small black or orange glands; softly hairy below	Cluster of 5-petaled ½ - ¾" yellow flowers at end of stalk; June – Sept.	Dry egg-shaped capsules
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	Opposite or whorled, up to 4" long, 1" wide, toothless, pointed tip	Spikes densely packed with 5-7 petaled pinkish-purplish ½ - ¾" flowers; petals with wrinkled texture; July – Sept.	Flowers develop to purplish-brown seed pods
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Garden valerian	Opposite, up to 8", compound with 7-12 pairs of lance-shaped toothed leaflets	4" flat to round clusters of pinkish-white ¼" flowers with 5 lobes; July – Oct.	Flowers develop to 1/8" brown seed with feathery hairs