

Filipendula occidentalis (S. Watson) Howell

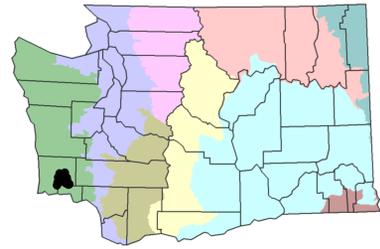
queen of the forest

Rosaceae - rose family

status: State Threatened, Federal Species of Concern,

BLM strategic

rank: G2G3 / S2S3



General Description: Strongly rhizomatous perennial herb with erect, mostly simple stems up to 2 m tall, hairless or slightly hairy below, becoming finely hairy above. Leaves hairy on both surfaces (at least on the veins), pinnately divided, with 1-3 (4) pairs of widely spaced, linear to ovate, serrate to doubly toothed leaflets 5-15 mm long, the terminal leaflet broadly ovate, 8-20 cm broad, palmately (3) 5-7 cleft into ovate to oblong-lanceolate, doubly serrate lobes. Stipules prominent.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers numerous in a nearly flat-topped, open, freely branched panicle of cymes. Hypanthium nearly flat, much shorter than the sepals. Sepals reflexed, narrowly lanceolate, (2) 3-4 mm long. Petals usually 5, white, about 6 mm long, elliptic-oblong. Stamens many, white, about equaling the petals. Flowers June to July.

Fruits: Dry achenes, indehiscent, brownish-hairy, with a slender stipe 2-3 mm long, the body 4 mm long, strongly flattened.

Identification Tips: *F. occidentalis* occurs with *Ribes bracteosum* and *Rubus parviflorus*, both of which are similar in length, leaf size, and general morphology. *F. occidentalis* can be distinguished from these others by its pinnately-divided leaves and the many-flowered, flat-topped panicle of cymes.

Range: Endemic to the Coast Range of southwest WA and northwest OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Bedrock crevices with water seeping over the rock surface throughout much of the year; usually near the high water mark of rivers or their tributaries. In WA, *F. occidentalis* occurs in open habitats that are too steep for soil to develop; they may also experience periodic erosion from flooding. Elevations in WA: 30-550 m (100-1800 ft). Associated species include red alder (*Alnus rubra*), mosses, and ferns.

Comments: The limited range and narrow habitat requirements contribute to the species' current status. There is potential for additional occurrences in the central and northern Willapa Hills, along the Naselle River, portions of the Grays River, and the Olympic Mts. Threats include timber management leading to alterations in hydrology, canopy removal, disturbance from road and bridge construction, and exposure to herbicides.

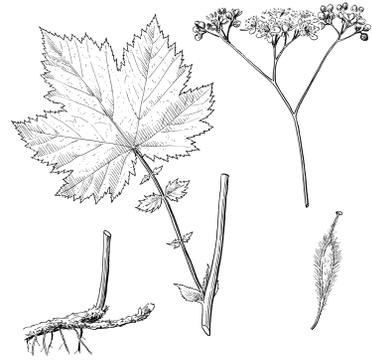


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