

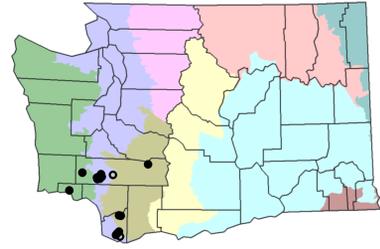
Sidalcea hirtipes C.L. Hitchc.

hairy-stemmed checker-mallow

Malvaceae - mallow family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G2 / S1



General Description: Perennial herb from short, thick rhizomes, 7-13 dm tall. Stems and leaves covered with stiff, coarse, simple to forked or cross-shaped hairs up to 2.5 mm long. Leaves alternate, with stipules. Basal leaves palmate, up to 15 cm broad, with 5-9 shallow lobes. Upper stem leaves divided nearly to the base, lobes 5-7, deeply toothed or cut.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers large, pinkish lavender, congested toward the tip of the stem in spikelike racemes that are usually less than 8 cm long. Pedicels stout, 1-3 (5) mm long. Calyx 9-15 mm long, enlarged in fruit, with fine, star-shaped hairs, and longer, often purplish cilia and hairs 1-2 mm long. Petals 1-2 cm, frequently greater than 1.5 cm long. Blooms early June to mid-July.

Fruits: Carpels 3.5-4 mm long, prominently veined and pitted on the sides; beak 0.6-0.8 mm long.

Identification Tips: *S. nelsoniana* and *S. hendersonii* both occur within the range of *S. hirtipes*. The calyx of *S. hirtipes* is longer and more hairy, the petals are longer, and the stems are much more hairy than those of *S. nelsoniana*. *S. hendersonii* is more coastal, in wetter habitats, including tidal marshes, roadside ditches, and wet meadows; *S. hirtipes* may occur in upland prairie remnants as well as moister sites.

Range: Regional endemic of WA and OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist remnant prairies, fencerows, open meadows, and roadside ditches; sometimes associated with creeks and streams. Mostly in the Puget Trough region at low elevations, but extending up to 1200 m (3800 ft) in WA. One site is along a steep, south-facing bluff adjacent to the Columbia River. Associated species include Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), Pacific crabapple (*Malus fusca*), hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*), large-leaved lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*), woolly vetch (*Vicia villosa*), and large-leaved avens (*Geum macrophyllum*). Open prairies were historically maintained by fires set by Native Americans; lack of fire has resulted in habitat loss via shrub and tree invasion. Some sites are subject to short-term periodic flooding.

Comments: Populations are mostly small and restricted to isolated remnants of habitat.

References: Hitchcock 1957.

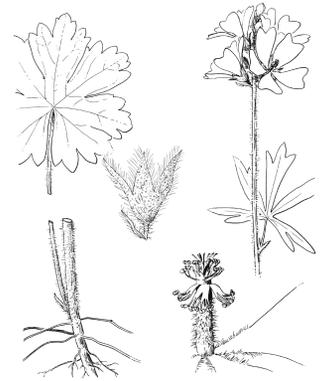


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