

***Potentilla diversifolia* Lehm. var. *perdissecta* (Rydb.)**

C.L. Hitchc.

diverse-leaved cinquefoil

Rosaceae (Rose Family)

**Status:** State Sensitive

**Rank:** G5T4S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): This perennial arises from a branching, woody persistent base, and short, thick rootstocks. There are usually several spreading to erect stems that are 4 to 18 in. (10-46 cm) tall. The pinnate leaves appear rather greenish, and are mainly basal, with 5 to 7 leaflets that are deeply dissected (almost to the base or midvein) into linear or narrowly oblong segments, that are frequently up to 1/2 in. (3-4 mm) broad. The leaflets are slightly to moderately covered in soft hairs, at least on the lower surface, and often become hairless. There are 1 to 2 stem leaves below the inflorescence, with ovate-lanceolate stipules. The many-flowered inflorescence has a flat top. The calyces measure up to 2/3 in (1.5 cm) broad when in fruit, are saucer-shaped, and bear long, soft, hairs.

**Identification Tips:** Within its range in Washington, *Potentilla diversifolia* var. *perdissecta* is most closely related to *P. diversifolia* var. *diversifolia*. The leaves of variety *perdissecta* are pinnate with deeply dissected leaflets, while the leaves of variety *diversifolia* are digitate (palmate), with shallowly dissected or deeply toothed leaflets. Use of a technical key is advised, as this is an extremely variable taxon, especially in leaf character (as its name indicates). There is every degree of intermediacy between the varieties *perdissecta*, *diversifolia* and *multisecta*. Variety *multisecta* occurs in Utah and Nevada, and less commonly in Idaho and Montana, but has not been reported in Washington.

**Phenology:** This taxon has been observed flowering in August.

**Range:** The taxon occurs in southeastern British Columbia, and southeastern Alberta, Idaho, Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming and Utah. In Washington it is found in Okanogan County.

**Habitat:** In Washington it has been found in gullies, glacial valleys, on ridge tops, in a moist meadow at the margin of a wetland and a coniferous forest from 5850 to 7380 feet (1783-2249 meters) elevation. Associated species at one or more sites

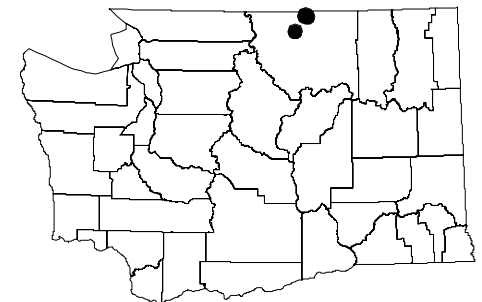
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diverse-leaved cinquefoil



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Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish

Known distribution  
of *Potentilla diversifolia*  
var. *perdissecta*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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include greenleaf fescue (*Festuca viridula*), sedge (*Carex* spp.), grouse whortleberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*), weeping alkali grass (*Poa distans*), heartleaf arnica (*Arnica cordifolia*), umber pussy-toes (*Antennaria umbrinella*), prickly sandwort (*Arenaria aculeata*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*).

**Ecology:** The taxon favors moist, shady and open areas, gravelly soils of glacially carved areas, alpine to subalpine or montane areas, ledges and rocky slopes, as well as stream banks.

**State Status Comments:** There have been less than five documented sightings of the taxon in Washington since 1981.

**Inventory Needs:** Known occurrence sites should be resurveyed and updated for both population and plant information. Appropriate habitats in Okanogan County should be systematically surveyed, as additional inventory is needed to accurately assess its status in Washington.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Potential threats include grazing, hydrologic alteration and recreational land use.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.

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