

# Key to *Cardamine* in Oregon

by Barbara Wilson  
modified from FNA and Kozloff

This key emphasizes petal length a bit more than the other one.

**Boldface font** = native plant

1. Racemes with bracts; petals pink; range Saddle Mt., Clatsop Co.....*Cardamine pattersonii*
- 1' Racemes lacking bracts; petals pink or white; range various
  2. Cauline leaves simple or absent, not compound nor conspicuously lobed
    3. Plants to 1-10(-14) cm tall, with distinct caudices; rhizomes absent; cauline leaves 0-1 (-2); high montane in the Cascades. ....*Cardamine bellidifolia*
    - 3' Plants 20-70(-100) cm tall, without caudices; rhizomes present; cauline leaves 2-23; plants 20-70(-100) cm tall; habitat and range various
      4. Rhizomes 1-3 mm diameter, not fleshy; rhizomal leaves usually absent; range in and E of Cascades. .... *Cardamine cordifolia*
      - 4' Rhizomes (3-)4-18 mm diameter, fleshy; rhizomal leaves present; range in and W of Cascades. ....*Cardamine californica* (in part)
    - 2' Cauline leaves pinnately or palmately deeply lobed or appearing compound.
      5. Petals more than 7 mm long, white or pink; style at least 3 mm long
        6. Rhizomes cylindrical, segments not fragile; petals white, rarely pink. *Cardamine angulata*
        - 6' Rhizomes tuberiform, fragile, usually breaking into fusiform, ovoid, oblong, or globose segments; petals white or pink.
          7. Habitat wetlands; cauline leaves with 5-11 lobes or leaflets; petals 12-16 mm, white; range in the Willamette Valley and central Douglas Co.*Cardamine penduliflora*
          - 7' Habitat forest; cauline leaves usually with 3-7 lobes or leaflets; petals 8-15 mm, white or pink; widespread W of Cascades, also in or near Cascades
            8. Petals usually white, sometimes pink; cauline leaves 2-5; stems (2-)2.7-6(-7) dm; ovules 12-22 per ovary. ....*Cardamine californica* (in part)
            - 8' Petals pink to purple, rarely white; cauline leaves 1-3; stems 0.5-2(-3) dm; ovules 8-16 per ovary. ....*Cardamine nuttallii*
        5. Petals generally less than 7 mm long, white; style usually less than 2 mm long
          9. Plants perennial, rhizomatous (rhizomes sometimes fragile and tuber-forming); petals 3.5-7(+???) mm long.
            10. Petals 2-2.5 mm; anthers 0.2-0.3 mm; range E of Cascades; rare.*Cardamine holmgrenii*
            - 10' Petals 3.5-6 mm; anthers 0.3-1.5 mm; range E or W of Cascades; not rare
              11. Anthers 0.3-0.5 mm; rhizomes tuberiform, fragile, usually breaking into fusiform, ovoid, oblong, or globose segments..... *Cardamine occidentalis*
              - 11' Anthers 0.7-1 mm; rhizomes cylindrical, not fragile.....*Cardamine breweri*
        9. Plants annual or biennial, not rhizomatous; petals 1.5-4 mm long, white.
          12. Basal leaves forming a rosette, persistent to flowering time
            13. Stamens usually 4, rarely 5 or 6; fruiting pedicels erect to ascending; fruits often appressed to rachis, valves glabrous; seeds narrowly margined.*Cardamine hirsuta*

- 13' Stamens 6; fruiting pedicels divaricate-ascending; fruits often not appressed to rachis, valves sparsely pubescent or glabrous; seeds often not margined (wingless)..... *Cardamine oligosperma*
- 12' Basal leaves not forming a rosette, often withered by flowering time
  - 13. Lateral leaflets of cauline leaves narrowly oblong, linear or filiform, 1-3 mm wide; fruits 0.6-0.9 mm wide; rare waif, Portland area...*Cardamine parviflora*
  - 13' Lateral leaflets of cauline leaves orbicular, ovate, elliptic, or oblong, 4-25 mm wide; fruits 0.8-1.5 mm wide
  - 14. Rachises slightly flexuous; ovules 18-40 per ovary; plants of waste grounds, disturbed sites. .... *Cardamine flexuosa*
  - 14' Rachises straight; ovules 40-80 per ovary; plants of margins of wet habitats..... *Cardamine pensylvanica*