

***Hydrophyllum tenuipes*, Pacific waterleaf**

General Botanical Characteristics

Hydrophyllum tenuipes, is a rhizomatous perennial herb with a stem that can grow 20 cm-80 cm high. Both the leaves and stem have a hairy texture. The leaves are pinnately lobed or divided with pointed tips and coarse teeth edges. Sometimes they are parted with 5 to 7 leaflets. Inflorescences found at the tip of the stem are loose or in tight cymes (fiddlehead arrangement). The flowers have stamens longer than the petals, are bell-shaped, and are yellow, light purple or blue in color.



Seasonal Development

It flowers in late spring or summer.

Distribution/Habitat

The waterleaf family is widely distributed in tropical and temperate regions. *Hydrophyllum tenuipes* is found mainly in western North America from southern British Columbia to northern California. It is distributed through the Pacific Coast and west of the Cascades. It grows in moist shady woods at low elevations.

Interesting Facts

- Grazing animals eat its leaves.
- Native Americans ate the roots.

References

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