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# Vascular Plant Families of the United States (with Common Names and Numerical Summary)

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# VASCULAR PLANT FAMILIES OF THE UNITED STATES (WITH COMMON NAMES AND NUMERICAL SUMMARY)

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21 February 2020

There are four groups of vascular plants — lycophytes (often called fern allies), ferns, gymnosperms, and flowering plants (angiosperms). This inventory includes native plants, along with introduced weeds, crops, and ornamentals that are naturalized and that maintain themselves without our assistance. I have also included plants that have not been collected in recent years and may well be extinct or extirpated. The geographic coverage is the conterminous or contiguous United States, the region known more informally as the "lower 48." Alaska, Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands are not included. Beside each family name is its number of genera, species, and taxa (including subspecies and varieties).

## LYCOPHYTES

- Isoëtaceae • Quillwort • 1 • 37 • 38  
Lycopodiaceae • Club-Moss • 8 • 31 • 31  
Selaginellaceae • Spike-Moss • 1 • 38 • 39

## FERNS

- Anemiaceae • Flowering Fern • 1 • 3 • 3  
Aspleniaceae • Spleenwort • 1 • 33 • 34  
Athyriaceae • Lady Fern • 1 • 3 • 5  
Blechnaceae • Deer Fern • 4 • 9 • 9  
Cyathaeaceae • Scaly Tree Fern • 1 • 1 • 1  
Cystopteridaceae • Bladder Fern • 1 • 9 • 9  
Dennstaedtiaceae • Bracken Fern • 3 • 8 • 10  
Diplaziopsidaceae • Glade Fern • 1 • 1 • 1  
Dryopteridaceae • Wood fern • 11 • 53 • 54  
Equisetaceae • Horsetail • 1 • 12 • 12  
Gleicheniaceae • Forking Fern • 1 • 1 • 1  
Grammatidaceae • Dwarf Polypody • 1 • 1 • 1  
Hymenophyllaceae • Filmy Fern • 5 • 10 • 10  
Lindsaeaceae • Creeping Fern • 1 • 1 • 1  
Lomariopsidaceae • Fringed Fern • 1 • 1 • 1  
Lygodiaceae • Climbing Fern • 1 • 3 • 3  
Marsileaceae • Water Clover • 2 • 10 • 10  
Nephrolepidaceae • Boston Fern • 1 • 5 • 5  
Onocleaceae • Sensitive Fern • 1 • 1 • 1  
Ophioglossaceae • Adder's-Tongue • 5 • 41 • 42  
Osmundaceae • Royal Fern • 2 • 3 • 3  
Polypodiaceae • Polypody Fern • 12 • 29 • 29  
Psilotaceae • Whisk Fern • 1 • 1 • 1  
Pteridaceae • Brake Fern • 18 • 114 • 129  
Salviniaceae • Floating Fern • 2 • 8 • 8

- Schizaeaceae • Climbing Fern • 2 • 2 • 2  
Tectariaceae • Halberd Fern • 1 • 4 • 4  
Thelypteridaceae • Marsh Fern • 8 • 29 • 30  
Woodsiaceae • Cliff Fern • 1 • 11 • 14

## GYMNOSPERMS

- Araucariaceae • Araucaria • 1 • 1 • 1  
Cupressaceae • Cypress • 14 • 50 • 55  
Cycadaceae • Cycad • 1 • 1 • 1  
Ephedraceae • Ephedra • 1 • 12 • 13  
Ginkgoaceae • Maidenhair Tree • 1 • 1 • 1  
Pinaceae • Pine • 8 • 84 • 96  
Podocarpaceae • Podocarp • 1 • 1 • 1  
Taxaceae • Yew • 3 • 8 • 8  
Zamiaceae • Sago-Palm • 1 • 2 • 2

## FLOWERING PLANTS

- Acanthaceae • Acanthus • 27 • 91 • 102  
Aceraceae • Maple • 1 • 19 • 34  
Achatocarpaceae • Snake Eyes • 1 • 1 • 1  
Acoraceae • Sweet Flag • 1 • 2 • 2  
Actinidiaceae • Chinese Gooseberry • 1 • 3 • 3  
Adoxaceae • Muskroot, Moschatel • 1 • 1 • 1  
Aizoaceae • Ice plant • 13 • 28 • 28  
Alismataceae • Water Plantain • 5 • 34 • 38  
Altingiaceae • Sweet Gum • 1 • 1 • 1  
Amaranthaceae • Pigweed • 45 • 291 • 337  
Amaryllidaceae • Amaryllis • 14 • 165 • 189  
Anacampserotaceae • Aroyo Flame Flower • 1 • 1 • 1  
Anacardiaceae • Cashew • 12 • 36 • 50  
Annonaceae • Sweetsop, Soursop • 5 • 18 • 18

Apocynaceae • Dogbane • 34 • 196 • 209  
 Apodanthaceae • Stem-sucker • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Aponogetonaceae • Cape Pondweed • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Aquifoliaceae • Holly • 2 • 22 • 26  
 Araceae • Philodendron • 21 • 29 • 29  
 Araliaceae • Ginseng • 9 • 26 • 27  
 Aristolochiaceae • Birthwort • 3 • 35 • 37  
 Asparagaceae • Asparagus • 39 • 199 • 240  
 Asphodelaceae • Asphodel • 7 • 10 • 10  
 Avicenniaceae • Black Mangrove • 1 • 2 • 2  
  
 Balsaminaceae • Touch-Me-Not • 1 • 10 • 10  
 Basellaceae • Madiera Vine • 2 • 3 • 3  
 Bataceae • Salt Wort • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Begoniaceae • Begonia • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Berberidaceae • Barberry • 11 • 37 • 38  
 Betulaceae • Birch • 5 • 33 • 40  
 Bignoniaceae • Bignon • 17 • 21 • 22  
 Bixaceae • Annato • 2 • 4 • 4  
 Bombacaceae • Balsa, Baobab • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Boraginaceae • Borage • 38 • 303 • 349  
 Bromeliaceae • Bromeliad, Pineapple • 7 • 25 • 25  
 Buddlejaceae • Summer-Lilac • 1 • 13 • 14  
 Burmanniaceae • Burmannia • 3 • 5 • 5  
 Burseraceae • Torchwood • 1 • 3 • 3  
 Butomaceae • Flowering-Rush • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Buxaceae • Box • 2 • 3 • 3  
  
 Cabombaceae • Water Shield • 2 • 4 • 4  
 Cactaceae • Cactus • 37 • 195 • 227  
 Callitrichaceae • Water-Starwort • 1 • 13 • 13  
 Calophyllaceae • Alexandrian-Laurel • 2 • 3 • 3  
 Calycanthaceae • Sweet Shrub • 1 • 3 • 3  
 Calyceraceae • Calycera • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Campanulaceae • Bellflower • 21 • 124 • 146  
 Canellaceae • White Cinnamon • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Cannabaceae • Hemp • 2 • 3 • 6  
 Cannaceae • Canna • 1 • 3 • 3  
 Capparaceae • Caper • 4 • 5 • 5  
 Caprifoliaceae • Honeysuckle • 9 • 56 • 67  
 Caricaceae • Papaya • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Caryophyllaceae • Carnation • 41 • 259 • 305  
 Casuarinaceae • Beefwood • 1 • 3 • 3  
 Celastraceae • Spindle Tree • 11 • 33 • 36  
 Celtidaceae • Hackberry • 2 • 10 • 14  
 Ceratophyllaceae • Hornwort • 1 • 3 • 3  
 Cercidiphyllaceae • Katsura Tree • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Chrysobalanaceae • Cocoa Plum • 2 • 2 • 2  
 Cistaceae • Rock-Rose • 6 • 41 • 49  
 Cleomaceae • Spider Flower • 12 • 34 • 40  
 Clethraceae • White-Alder • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Colchicaceae • Autumn-Crocus • 4 • 10 • 10  
 Combretaceae • Combretum • 5 • 8 • 8  
 Commelinaceae • Spiderwort • 6 • 54 • 56  
 Compositae • Aster, Sunflower • 456 • 2960 000  
 Convolvulaceae • Bindweed • 17 • 166 • 205  
 Cordiaceae • Cordia • 1 • 8 • 8

Cornaceae • Dogwood • 1 • 19 • 20  
 Costaceae • Costus • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Crassulaceae • Stonecrop • 18 • 114 • 149  
 Crossosomataceae • Crossosoma • 3 • 7 • 11  
 Cruciferae • Mustard • 100 • 691 • 764  
 Cucurbitaceae • Gourd, Squash • 25 • 57 • 61  
 Cymodoceaceae • Manatee-Grass • 2 • 2 • 2  
 Cyperaceae • Sedge • 27 • 831 • 887  
 Cyrillaceae • Leatherwood • 2 • 2 • 2  
  
 Datiscaceae • Durango root • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Diapensiaceae • Diapensia • 4 • 5 • 6  
 Dioscoreaceae • Yam • 1 • 9 • 9  
 Dipsacaceae • Teasel • 6 • 11 • 11  
 Droseraceae • Sundew • 3 • 13 • 13  
  
 Ebenaceae • Persimmon • 1 • 4 • 4  
 Ehretiaceae • Ehretia • 2 • 10 • 11  
 Elaeocarpaceae • Elaeocarp • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Elaeagnaceae • Oleaster • 3 • 9 • 9  
 Elatinaceae • Waterwort • 2 • 10 • 10  
 Ericaceae • Heath • 45 • 207 • 253  
 Eriocaulaceae • Pipewort • 3 • 17 • 17  
 Escalloniaceae • Escallonia • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Eucommiaceae • Hard Rubber Tree • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Euphorbiaceae • Spurge • 35 • 290 • 311  
  
 Fagaceae • Beech, Oak • 5 • 194 • 199  
 Flacourtiaceae • Flacourtie • 4 • 6 • 6  
 Fouquieriaceae • Ocotillo • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Francoaceae • Bridal Wreath • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Frankeniaceae • Frankenia • 1 • 5 • 5  
  
 Garryaceae • Silk Tassel • 2 • 9 • 9  
 Gelsomiaceae • Jessamine • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Gentianaceae • Gentian • 18 • 118 • 130  
 Geraniaceae • Geranium • 3 • 62 • 70  
 Gisekiaceae • Gisekia • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Goodeniaceae • Goodenia • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Gramineae • Grass • 204 • 1397 • 1544  
 Grossulariaceae • Gooseberry • 1 • 55 • 67  
 Gunneraceae • Gunnera • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Guttiferae • Mangosteen • 2 • 58 • 61  
  
 Haemodoraceae • Bloodwort • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Haloragaceae • Water Milfoil • 3 • 18 • 18  
 Hamamelidaceae • Witch Hazel • 3 • 6 • 6  
 Heliconiaceae • Heliconia • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Heliotropaceae • Heliotrope • 3 • 30 • 33  
 Hippocastanaceae • Buckeye • 1 • 7 • 9  
 Hippuridaceae • Mare's-Tail • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Hydrangeaceae • Hydrangea • 10 • 25 • 32  
 Hydrocharitaceae • Water Weed • 11 • 23 • 26  
 Hydrocotylaceae • Water Pennywort • 1 • 9 • 10  
 Hydroleaceae • Waterpod • 1 • 6 • 6  
 Hydrophyllaceae • Waterleaf • 12 • 220 • 262  
 Hypoxidaceae • Star-Grass • 2 • 8 • 8

- Iridaceae • Iris • 20 • 101 • 107  
 Iteaceae • Virginia Sweetspire • 1 • 1 • 1
- Juglandaceae • Walnut • 3 • 32 • 34  
 Juncaceae • Rush • 2 • 114 • 124  
 Juncaginaceae • Arrow-grass • 1 • 5 • 5
- Koeberliniaceae • Junco • 1 • 1 • 3  
 Krameriaceae • Rhatany • 1 • 4 • 4
- Labiatae • Mint • 64 • 465 • 547  
 Lardizabalaceae • Chocolate Vine • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Lauraceae • Laurel • 10 • 17 • 18  
 Leguminosae • Bean, Pea • 150 • 1572 • 1993  
 Leitneriaceae • Corkwood • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Lemnaceae • Duckweed • 4 • 19 • 19  
 Lennoaceae • Sand Food • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Lentibulariaceae • Bladderwort • 2 • 28 • 29  
 Liliaceae • Lily • 12 • 150 • 175  
 Limnanthaceae • Meadow Foam • 2 • 11 • 24  
 Limnocharitaceae • Water-Poppy • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Linaceae • Flax • 3 • 52 • 60  
 Linderniaceae • False Pimpernel • 3 • 10 • 10  
 Loasaceae • Loasa • 4 • 94 • 101  
 Loganiaceae • Logania • 3 • 11 • 11  
 Lythraceae • Loosestrife • 11 • 35 • 36
- Magnoliaceae • Magnolia • 2 • 12 • 12  
 Malpighiaceae • Malpighia • 8 • 13 • 13  
 Malvaceae • Mallow, Cotton • 45 • 223 • 256  
 Marantaceae • Arrowroot, Prayer Plant • 2 • 3 • 3  
 Martyniaceae • Unicorn Plant • 2 • 6 • 7  
 Mayacaceae • Bog-Moss • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Mazaceae • Mazus • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Melanthiaceae • Death-Camas • 11 • 81 • 88  
 Melastomataceae • Melastome • 3 • 13 • 15  
 Meliaceae • Mahogany • 3 • 4 • 4  
 Menispermaceae • Moonseed • 4 • 5 • 5  
 Menyanthaceae • Bog Bean • 3 • 8 • 8  
 Molluginaceae • Carpet Weed • 2 • 4 • 4  
 Montiaceae • Miner's-Lettuce • 6 • 78 • 92  
 Moraceae • Mulberry • 7 • 25 • 25  
 Moringaceae • Moringa • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Muntingiaceae • Jamaica-Cherry • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Musaceae • Banana • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Myoporaceae • Myoporum • 2 • 2 • 2  
 Myricaceae • Sweet Gale • 2 • 8 • 8  
 Myrsinaceae • Myrsine • 8 • 41 • 41  
 Myrtaceae • Myrtle • 17 • 45 • 45
- Namaceae • Nama • 3 • 31 • 37  
 Nartheciaceae • Bog-Asphodel • 3 • 9 • 9  
 Nelumbonaceae • Water-Lotus • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Nitrariaceae • Nitraria • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Nyctaginaceae • Four-O'clock • 15 • 90 • 105  
 Nymphaeaceae • Water-Lily • 2 • 19 • 20  
 Nyssaceae • Tupelo • 1 • 5 • 5
- Ochnaceae • Bird's-eye Bush • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Oleaceae • Olive • 12 • 68 • 73  
 Onagraceae • Evening-Primrose • 11 • 285 • 365  
 Orchidaceae • Orchid • 74 • 260 • 277  
 Oxalidaceae • Oxalis, Sorrel • 1 • 20 • 36
- Paeoniaceae • Paeony • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Palmae • Palm • 22 • 32 • 32  
 Pandanaceae • Screw-Pine • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Papaveraceae • Poppy • 26 • 87 • 106  
 Passifloraceae • Passion Flower • 1 • 29 • 31  
 Paulowniaceae • Princess Tree • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Pedaliaceae • Sesame • 2 • 2 • 2  
 Pentaphylacaceae • Japanese Clerya • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Penthoraceae • Ditch Stonecrop • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Petiveriaceae • Pigeon Berry • 3 • 3 • 3  
 Phrymaceae • Lop Seed • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Phytolaccaceae • Pokeweed • 2 • 7 • 8  
 Picramniaceae • Bitter Bush • 2 • 2 • 2  
 Piperaceae • Pepper • 3 • 11 • 11  
 Pittosporaceae • Parchment Bark • 2 • 8 • 8  
 Plantaginaceae • Plantago, Plantain • 2 • 32 • 32  
 Platanaceae • Sycamore • 1 • 3 • 3  
 Plumbaginaceae • Leadwort, Thrift • 4 • 15 • 16  
 Podostemaceae • River Weed • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Polemoniaceae • Phlox • 22 • 135 • 472  
 Polygalaceae • Milkwort • 5 • 62 • 69  
 Polygonaceae • Smartweed • 32 • 537 • 629  
 Pontederiaceae • Pickerel Weed • 4 • 12 • 12  
 Portulacaceae • Purslane • 1 • 11 • 12  
 Posidoniaceae • Mediterranean Tapeweed • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Potamogetonaceae • Pond Weed • 3 • 37 • 42  
 Primulaceae • Primrose • 5 • 43 • 53  
 Proteaceae • Protea • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Putranjivaceae • Guiana-Plum • 1 • 2 • 2
- Ranunculaceae • Buttercup • 21 • 271 • 343  
 Resedaceae • Mignonette • 2 • 6 • 6  
 Rhizophoraceae • Mangrove • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Rosaceae • Rose • 68 • 743 • 795  
 Rubiaceae • Madder • 40 • 187 • 244  
 Ruppiaceae • Ditch-Grass • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Rutaceae • Rue • 18 • 47 • 56
- Salicaceae • Willow • 2 • 97 • 104  
 Santalaceae • Bastard Toadflax • 10 • 22 • 37  
 Sapindaceae • Soapberry • 15 • 23 • 24  
 Sapotaceae • Sapodilla, Mastic • 5 • 17 • 20  
 Sarcobataceae • Greasewood • 1 • 2 • 2  
 Sarraceniaceae • Pitcher Plant • 2 • 12 • 15  
 Saururaceae • Lizard's-Tail • 3 • 3 • 3  
 Saxifragaceae • Saxifrage • 22 • 134 • 147  
 Scheuchzeriaceae • Rannoch-Rush • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Schisandraceae • Star Vine • 2 • 3 • 3  
 Schoepfiaceae • Whitewood • 1 • 1 • 1  
 Scrophulariaceae • Snapdragon • 90 • 870 • 1071

Simaroubaceae • Quassia • 4 • 5 • 5  
Simmondsiaceae • Jojoba • 1 • 1 • 1  
Smilacaceae • Greenbrier • 1 • 22 • 22  
Solanaceae • Nightshade, Potato • 31 • 185 • 216  
Sphenocleaceae • Goose Weed • 1 • 1 • 1  
Staphyleaceae • Bladdernut • 1 • 2 • 2  
Stemonaceae • Stemona • 1 • 1 • 1  
Sterculiaceae • Cacao • 7 • 23 • 23  
Styracaceae • Silverbell • 2 • 8 • 12  
Surianaceae • Bay-Cedar • 1 • 1 • 1  
Symplocaceae • Sweetleaf • 1 • 2 • 2  
  
Talinaceae • Fame Flower • 1 • 2 • 2  
Tamaricaceae • Salt-cedar • 1 • 9 • 9  
Tecophilaeaceae • Doll's-Lily • 1 • 1 • 1  
Tetrachondraceae • Tetrachondra • 1 • 1 • 1  
Theaceae • Tea • 3 • 7 • 7  
Thymelaeaceae • Daphne • 4 • 8 • 8  
  
Tiliaceae • Basswood • 4 • 14 • 17  
Tofieldiaceae • False Asphodel • 4 • 7 • 9

Tropaeolaceae • Nasturtium • 1 • 2 • 2  
Turneraceae • Turnera • 2 • 4 • 4  
Typhaceae • Cattail • 2 • 14 • 14  
  
Ulmaceae • Elm • 3 • 13 • 13  
Umbelliferae • Carrot, Umbel • 81 • 405 • 445  
Urticaceae • Nettle • 10 • 27 • 31  
  
Valerianaceae • Valerian 4 • 33 • 39  
Verbenaceae • Verbena, Vervain • 20 • 131 • 140  
Viburnaceae • Wayfaring Tree • 2 • 39 • 40  
Violaceae • Violet • 2 • 76 • 95  
Vitaceae • Grape • 6 • 30 • 34  
  
Ximeniaceae • Hog-plum • 1 • 1 • 1  
Xyridaceae • Yellow-Eyed Grass • 1 • 29 • 32  
  
Zingiberaceae • Ginger • 5 • 6 • 6  
Zosteraceae • Eel-Grass • 3 • 4 • 4  
Zygophyllaceae • Caltrop • 6 • 17 • 17

## A NUMERICAL SUMMARY

	Families	Genera	Species	Taxa
Lycophytes	3	10	106	108
Ferns	29	91	407	433
Gymnosperms	9	31	160	178
Flowering Plants	262	2823	18,798	21,866
<b>Totals</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>2955</b>	<b>19,471</b>	<b>22,585</b>

### 10 Largest Families (taxa)

Compositae • 2968  
 Leguminosae • 1993  
 Gramineae • 1544  
 Scrophulariaceae • 1071  
 Cyperaceae • 887  
 Cruciferae • 764  
 Polygonaceae • 629  
 Umbelliferae • 445  
 Onagraceae • 365  
 Boraginaceae • 349

### 10 Largest Families (genera)

Compositae • 456  
 Gramineae • 204  
 Leguminosae • 150  
 Cruciferae • 100  
 Scrophulariaceae • 90  
 Umbelliferae • 81  
 Orchidaceae • 74  
 Rosaceae • 68  
 Amaranthaceae • 45  
 Ericaceae • 45  
 Labiate • 45  
 Malvaceae • 45  
 Caryophyllaceae • 41

### Genera with 100 or more taxa

Astragalus • 525  
 Carex • 497  
 Eriogonum • 390  
 Penstemon • 334  
 Lupinus • 260  
 Phacelia • 215  
 Erigeron • 209  
 Crataegus • 208  
 Quercus • 192  
 Castilleja • 151  
 Euphorbia • 149  
 Trifolium • 140  
 Galium • 129  
 Cryptantha • 124  
 Allium • 123  
 Atriplex • 121  
 Panicum • 113  
 Physaria • 111  
 Solidago • 111  
 Lomatium • 105  
 Symphytum • 102  
 Boechera • 101  
 Cyperus • 100

## PRIMARY SOURCES

In addition to a number of state and regional floras, monographs, and revisions, I used the following sources for distribution data, family concepts, and nomenclature.

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