

## Puzzling Pairs through the years

Since 1988, the Alberta Native Plant Council newsletter IRIS has brought to the ANPC membership articles on all things native plant-related. Periodically, a series called “Puzzling Pairs” (or the occasional “Tricky Trio”) has been published to help the plant observer to sort between similar species. So, if you are finding any of the following sets of species puzzling (or tricky), just head to the issue of IRIS posted on the ANPC website for some help. Remember though that there have been on-going taxonomic changes, so some of the names may have changed. The table below uses current taxonomy. Common names are from Kershaw 2019\*.

Species discussed	Issue	Author
Thinleaf snowberry ( <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> ) Western snowberry ( <i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i> )	IRIS 49 Summer 2005	Lorna Allen
Paper birch ( <i>Betula papyrifera</i> ) Alaska paper birch ( <i>Betula neolaskana</i> )	IRIS 50 Fall 2005	Lorna Allen
Field horsetail ( <i>Equisetum arvense</i> ) Meadow horsetail ( <i>Equisetum pratense</i> )	IRIS 52 Summer 2006	Lorna Allen
Wild strawberry ( <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> ) Woodland strawberry ( <i>Fragaria vesca</i> )	IRIS 56 January 2008	Lorna Allen
Fringed loosestrife ( <i>Lysimachia ciliata</i> ) Lowland yellow loosestrife ( <i>Lysimachia hybrida</i> )	IRIS 57 March 2008	C. Dana Bush
Leafy northern green orchid ( <i>Platanthera aquilonis</i> ) Tall northern green orchid ( <i>Platanthera huronensis</i> )	IRIS 58 November 2008	Lorna Allen
Golden saxifrage ( <i>Chrysosplenium iowense</i> ) Green saxifrage ( <i>Chrysosplenium tetrandrum</i> )	IRIS 59 February 2009	C. Dana Bush
Cutleaf fleabane ( <i>Erigeron compositus</i> ) Threelobe fleabane ( <i>Erigeron trifidus</i> )	IRIS 60 May 2009	C. Dana Bush
Blue columbine ( <i>Aquilegia brevistyla</i> ) Jones columbine ( <i>Aquilegia jonesii</i> )	IRIS 66 December 2011	Lorna Allen
Yellow columbine ( <i>Aquilegia flavescens</i> ) Western columbine ( <i>Aquilegia formosa</i> )	IRIS 66 December 2011	Lorna Allen
Mountain cranberry ( <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> ) Twinflower ( <i>Linnaea borealis</i> ) Common bearberry ( <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> )	IRIS 68 November 2012	Lorna Allen
Short-stalk chickweed ( <i>Cerastium brachypodum</i> ) Nodding chickweed ( <i>Cerastium nutans</i> )	IRIS 70 March 2013	C. Dana Bush
Sandhills cinquefoil ( <i>Potentilla lasiodonta</i> previously <i>P. finitima</i> ) Pennsylvania cinquefoil ( <i>Potentilla pensylvanica</i> )	IRIS 78 January 2016	C. Dana Bush & Patsy Cotterill
Prickly rose ( <i>Rosa acicularis</i> ) Prairie rose ( <i>Rosa arkansana</i> ) Woods rose ( <i>Rosa woodsii</i> )	IRIS 85 Spring/Summer 2020	Lorna Allen
Three-leaved-false-Solomon-seal ( <i>Maianthemum trifolium</i> ) Wild lily-of-the-valley ( <i>Maianthemum canadense</i> )	Coming soon	Lorna Allen

Western false-Solomon-seal ( <i>Maianthemum amplexicaule</i> ) Starflower false-Solomon-seal ( <i>Maianthemum stellatum</i> )	Coming soon	Lorna Allen
--	-------------	-------------

\*Kershaw, L. 2019. Alberta Plant Names: A guide to their pronunciation, meaning and English alternatives. Self-published. Kindle Direct Publishing.