

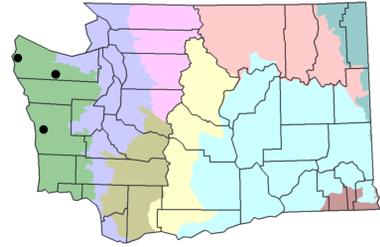
## ***Sanguisorba menziesii* Rydb.**

Menzies' burnet

Rosaceae - rose family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic, USFS strategic

rank: G3G4 / S1



**General Description:** Freely rhizomatous perennial herb, hairless, with mostly basal leaves and erect, simple to sparingly branched, nearly leafless flowering stems. Leaves pinnately compound, alternate. Basal leaves with large blades, up to 2.5 dm long; leaflets 9-15, ovate to oblong, 2-5 cm long, coarsely toothed.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers sessile, reddish purple, closely packed into elongate spikes 1.5-7 cm x 10-13 mm. Petals absent. Sepals petal-like, spreading, 2.5-3 mm long. Stamens 4; filaments flattened and strongly club-shaped, usually about twice as long as the sepals or slightly longer.

**Fruits:** Achenes enclosed in the hypanthium, which becomes hardened, 4-angled, wing-margined, and hairy in fruit. In WA this taxon flowers and fruits in August.

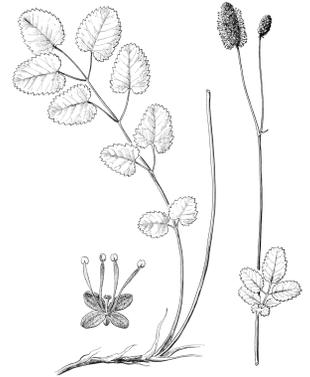


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**Identification Tips:** *Sanguisorba menziesii* is similar to *S. officinalis* and *S. sitchensis*. *S. officinalis* has a thick short rootstock, flowering spikes only 1-2.5 (3) cm, maroon to deep maroon purple flowers, and filaments cylindrical (not club-shaped) and about equal in length to the sepals. *S. sitchensis* is freely rhizomatous, has flowering spikes 3-8 cm long, filaments usually at least 3 times as long as the sepals; and its flowers are greenish or only lightly pinkish or purplish.

**Range:** AK, B.C., and WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Found scattered on higher ground around the periphery of bogs, as well as in bogs with standing water in coastal areas of the Olympia Peninsula. Associated species include sedges (*Carex* spp.). Elevation in WA: 900 m (3100 ft).

**Comments:** In WA this species is known from fewer than 5 occurrences. Primary threats to this species and its habitat are timber harvest activities in and around bogs, herbicides, road construction, hydrologic alteration, and recreation. This species may occur in bogs throughout the Olympic Peninsula but may be overlooked because of its late blooming time. It is also rare in B.C.



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