

Northern bedstraw

Scientific name: *Galium boreale* L.

Common names: Northern bedstraw

Northern bedstraw is a widely distributed circumboreal perennial herb. It grows in mountain brush, aspen, meadow and coniferous forest communities.

This plant has many small white or cream flowers (3.5-7 mm wide), arising in clusters from the leaf axils and the apex of the stems. The flowers have no sepals but are composed of four united petals that fold back from the short tube. Three-veined, linear leaves are arranged around the square stems in sets of four.

This plant flowers from late May through August. These pictures were taken along the trails in the Uinta Mountains where Northern bedstraw grows abundantly, often covering the forest understory with its prolific flowers.

