

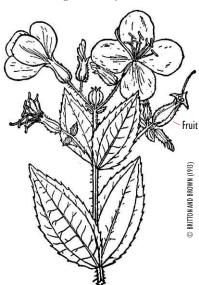
SIZE: 30-60 cm tall.

LEAVES: Ovate to lance-shaped and finely toothed along the leaf edge. Coarse hairs cover the surface. Leaves are paired (opposite), attached directly to the stem (sessile), and 2-7 cm long.

STEM: Sparsely hairy (especially near leaves), four sided, relatively fibrous, and not branched.

FLOWERS: One or more purple-pink flowers with long, yellow stamens in the centre. The back of the petals is often bristly.

FRUITS: Purple and pitcher shaped with four triangular teeth at the opening, 7-10 mm long and bristly to smooth.



Habitat:

Moist open places and rocky lakeshores. **Interesting point:** This beautiful plant is also known as Handsome Harry. Its distinctive urnshaped fruit has been compared to a little cream pitcher by the famous poet and naturalist Henry David Thoreau.

Similar Species: Plymouth Gentian (Sabatia kennedyana, page 27) and Pink Coreopsis (Coreopsis rosea, page 4) both have pinkish flowers with yellow centers. Pink Coreopsis has 8 petal-like rays and no yellow stamens, and Plymouth Gentian has 9-11 petals that are yellow at the base.



Virginia Meadow-Beauty

Rhexia virginica

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Bristles on the back of the petals

Bristly flower bud © MEGAN CROWLEY





Opposite leaves

© MEGAN CROWLEY Pitcher shaped fruits