

Common Front Range Colorado Native Willow-herbs

Tall, Tall Annual or Panicked Willowherb or Tall Fireweed (*Epilobium brachycarpum*)

- tall glandular, hairy annual herb occasionally reaching two meters in height
- somewhat gangly and thin like an erect weed
- narrow, curving, pointed leaves up to a few centimeters in length
- flower has four petals which may be so deeply notched that they look like four pairs; generally light purple or pink, with darker veining
- fruit is a capsule 1 to 3 centimeters long

This one may be easily mistaken for hairy willowherb.



Fringed, Slender, or Northern Willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum*)

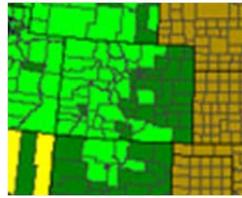
- perennial herbaceous wetland species
- often exceeds 5 feet in height
- thickly veined lance-shaped leaves may be up to 15 centimeters long toward base
- foliage, stem, and inflorescence covered in bristly hairs and glands
- four sepals, eight stamens, and a club-shaped stigma
- regular, trumpet-shaped flowers have four petals so deeply notched they look like four pairs
- flowers white to light purple or pink with dark veining
- fruit is a narrow, hairy, four-chambered capsule up to 10 centimeters in length which may be held on a long stalk
- seeds are downy and can float for long distances in wind
- lives in moist places, stream-sides, ditches, ponds, gardens, roadsides, recently cleared areas and wasteland

This one may be easily mistaken for hairy willowherb.



Hornemann's willowherb (*Epilobium hornemannii*)

- flowers are tiny, pink/white/light-blue, and inconspicuous
- very common and highly variable plant
- "small and inconspicuous or no withered leaves" at flowering time
- moist montane and sub-alpine trails, near ponds, and along irrigation ditches
- common to have red stems and leaves in the spring and to return to these colors in the fall



This one may be easily mistaken for hairy willowherb, and is quite abundant in CO Front Range areas. I'd say the key difference here is the size of the flowers (much bigger on HWH)

Hairy or Great Hairy Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*)

- **3-6 ft. tall; perennial**
- **flowers single, 1/2 to 1 inch and PINK**
- **stems covered in soft hairs**
- **seeds with white silky tuft in long seedpod**
- **leaves 1/2 in. wide, 2-4 in. long, opposite, lance-shaped with toothed edges; attached directly to stem**

