

Araliaceae (Ginseng Family) Key
Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador
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- 1a. Leaves small and simple, blade orbicular; flowers in small axillary umbels; fruit dry, small, flat, and rounded, 1.5–2 mm wide. ***Hydrocotyle americana***
- 1b. Leaves large and compound, flowers in rounded umbels, fruit a dark blue to purplish-black drupe, 4–8 mm in diameter (*Aralia*). 2
 - 2a. Acaulescent or with a very short stem barely rising above the ground, at most 2 cm long; giving rise to a single large ternately-compound leaf on an erect petiole; flowers unisexual, the scape dividing into 2–7 (often 3) rays, each bearing a single umbel. ***Aralia nudicaulis***
 - 2b. Stems erect, woody, bristly at the base, erect, 2–9 dm tall; plant with several alternate bipinnately-compound leaves; flowers in a terminal many-branched inflorescence, each branch bearing a simple umbel. ***Aralia hispida***

Araliaceae Comparison Chart

Species:	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	<i>Aralia hispida</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle americana</i>
	wild sarsaparilla	bristly sarsaparilla	water pennywort
Stems	acaulescent or nearly so, stem at most 2 cm tall , arising from branches rhizomes	erect, woody bristly at the base, 2–9 dm tall	stolons long-creeping, stems filiform, herbaceous, to 5 cm tall
Leaves	basal, 1, ternately compound ; lateral leaflets asymmetric at the base; petiole glabrous	alternate, several, bipinnately compound ; leaflets elliptic, lanceolate, to oblong; petiole bristly	alternate, several, simple; blade orbicular with a deeply cordate base
Flowers	a single scape , branched above, with 2–7 (usually 3) rays, each bearing a simple umbel ; flowers 5-merous	a terminal, many-branched inflorescence , each branch bearing a simple umbel ; flowers 5-merous	small, sessile, axillary umbels ; flowers 5-merous
Fruit	fleshy , dark blue to purplish-black drupes ; each ending in 5 persistent styles		dry, flat, rounded, schizocarps , spitting into 2 one-seeded mericarps; styles 2