Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle Family) Key

Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador
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1a. Plants woody, erect low shrubs to 1 m tall. ................................................................. 2
1b. Plants herbaceous or dwarf creeping stems. ............................................................ 4

2a. Leaves ovate, apex acuminate, margins serrate, flowers distinct, corolla yellow, turning orange and to red after pollination; fruit a cylindrical capsule terminating in 5 persistent slender calyx lobe. ....................... Diervilla lonicera (bush honeysuckle)
2b. Leaves oval to orbicular, apex blunt (obtuse) to rounded, margins entire or with a few shallow lobes near the base of the leaf; fruit a fleshy berry. ......................... 3

3a. Leaves oval, pubescent; flowers pale yellow, with 2 corolla lobes attached to a single ovary; fruit an ovoid blue berry. .................. Lonicera villosa (northern fly-honeysuckle)
3b. Leaves oval to orbicular; flowers pink, with a single corolla and ovary; fruit a globose white berry. ............................................. Symphoricarpos albus (common snowberry)

4a. Dwarf shrubs with creeping stems to 2 m long and ascending to erect branches to 1 dm tall; stems bearing pairs of obovate to orbicular leaves; flowering stalks (peduncles) arising from the leaf axils and dividing above the middle into 2 branches, each of which bears a nodding pink flower; peduncles and floral bracts glandular pubescent; corolla funnelform, hairy inside; fruit a small dry capsule. ......
.......................... Linnaea borealis (twinflower)
4b. Erect herbaceous plants, with basal and cauline leaves, leaves simple, pinnately lobed, or pinnately compound; flowers blue or white; fruit an achene. .................. 5

5a. Plants pubescent; flowers in a hemispherical head, subtended by several lanceolate leafy bracts (involucre); corolla blue to purple and 4-lobed, stamens 4; fruit an achene, terminating in 8 slender awns (persistent calyx lobes); introduced plants of open fields and disturbed areas. ................................................................. Knautia arvensis (field scabious)
5b. Plants glabrous; flowers in compound cymes; the calyx of several bristle-like (setiform) lobes, each calyx lobe rolled inward at the top of the corolla tube, unrolling in fruit to produce a feather-like (plumose) pappus atop the achene; corolla tubular (salverform), pinkish white, the tube gibbous towards the base, the limb 5-lobed; stamens 3, ovary inferior; plants of fens, moist fields, or disturbed areas. ................................................................. 6

6a. Plants 1–4 dm tall; basal leaves petiolate and simple or pinnatifid, margins entire; cauline leaves pinnatifid, with 2–6 lobes; flowers bisexual and pistillate on the same
Valeriana dioica subsp. sylvatica (northern valerian)

- Plants 8–15 dm tall; basal leaves pinnately compound, cauline leaves pinnately divided or compound, with 7–25 leaflets, margins coarsely toothed; flowers in compound cymes, corolla 2.5–5 mm long; achene terminating in a 10-branched plumose pappus; plants introduced, occasionally escaping from gardens.

Valeriana officinalis (garden valerian)

- Plants native.

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**Caprifoliaceae Comparison Charts**

| Caprifoliaceae Chart 1 (of 2): Shrub with erect woody stems |  |
|---|---|---|
| **Species:** | **Diervilla lonicera** | **Lonicera villosa** | **Symphoricarpos albus** |
| | bush honeysuckle | mountain fly-honeysuckle | common snowberry |
| **Size** | low shrubs, usually to 5 dm tall, occasionally to 1 m tall | low to medium shrubs, to 1 m tall | low to medium shrubs, to 1 m tall |
| **Leaves** | lanceolate to ovate, 5–13 cm long, glabrous; base rounded, narrowing gradually to acuminate apex; margins serrate | oval to oblong, 2.5–6 cm long, pubescent; bases rounded to attenuate, apex blunt to rounded; margins entire | ovate to nearly orbicular, 1–5 cm long, ± glabrous; bases rounded to cordate, apex blunt to rounded and mucronate; margins entire to shallowly lobed |
| **Inflorescence** | terminal and axillary cymes of 2–6 flowers | axillary, borne in pairs | solitary, or usually in terminal and axillary racemes of 2–5 flowers |
| **Flowers** | yellow to orange, 2-lipped; upper lip divided into 2 lobes, lower lip with 3 lobes; the centre of the lower lip is hairy and deeper yellow | pale yellow, tubular and 2-lipped; upper lip 2-lobed, lower lip 3-lobed; 2 corollas are borne at the top of each inferior ovary | white and pink, campanulate, with 5 short lobes; inside of corolla is densely hairy; the short 5-lobed calyx persists at the end of young fruit |
| **Fruit** | dry cylindrical brown capsules, with a narrow beak and ending in the star-like persistent calyx | fleshy blue berry-like fruit, formed by 2 fused ovaries surrounded by a fleshy cup-like sheath | globose white berry-like drupes, 6–12 mm in diameter, borne in tight clusters at branch ends |
## Caprifoliaceae Chart 2 (of 2): Forbs or Dwarf shrubs with creeping stems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genera:</th>
<th>Linnaea</th>
<th>Knautia</th>
<th>Valeriana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>twinflower</td>
<td>field scabious</td>
<td>valerian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Size
- **Linnaea**: creeping dwarf shrubs; stems trailing; erect flowering shoots to 1 dm tall
- **Knautia**: forbs, 4–9 dm tall
- **Valeriana**: forbs, 5–10 cm tall

### Leaves
- **Linnaea**: simple, obovate to orbicular, 1–2 cm long, crenate near the apex
- **Knautia**: pinnatifid; upper leaves smaller, with fewer lobes than basal leaves
- **Valeriana**: basal leaves simple and spatulate or pinnatifid; cauline leaves pinnate; upper leaves smaller than lower

### Flowers
- **Linnaea**: the forked peduncle bears 2 nodding pink flowers
- **Knautia**: in dense heads with numerous pale purple 4-lobed flowers
- **Valeriana**: in a terminal compound cyme of numerous white, pink-tinged flowers

### Fruit
- **Linnaea**: a small dry capsule, surrounded by persistent glandular calyx lobes
- **Knautia**: a ± cylindrical achene topped with 8 short slender awns
- **Valeriana**: a ± cylindrical achene topped with 9–15 plumose bristles