

Melanthiaceae (Bunchflower Family) Key

Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador

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- 1a. Plants 1.5–4 dm tall, glabrous, with a terminal whorl of 3 broadly elliptic to obovate leaves; flower solitary, nodding; sepals 3, green, petals 3, white; stamens 6, filaments white, anthers lavender to pink; pistil 1, white, prominently 6-angled, styles 3, strongly recurved, stigmas extending along the inner surface of the styles; fruit a broadly ovoid pendant red berry; restricted in range to western insular Newfoundland.
 ***Trillium cernuum*** (nodding trillium)
- 1b. Plants 0.5–2 m tall, pubescent, with several alternate sheathing leaves; flowers numerous, in a tall, erect, branched panicle; tepals 6, yellowish-green to dark green, pubescent on the lower surface; stamens 6, filaments green, appressed against the ovary, anthers yellow; pistil 1, styles 3, stigmas extending along the inner surface of the styles; fruit an ovoid erect capsule; restricted in range to southwest Labrador (Wabush-Labrador City region). ***Veratrum viride* var. *viride*** (green false hellebore)

Melanthiaceae Comparison Chart

Species:	<i>Trillium cernuum</i>	<i>Veratrum viride</i> var. <i>viride</i>
	nodding trillium	green false hellebore
Leaves	3, in a terminal whorl ; blades broadly elliptic to obovate, 5–15 cm long, glabrous	several, alternate and sheathing the stem; blades elliptic to ovate, 15–25 cm long, pubescent
Flowers	solitary, terminal, on a nodding peduncle, the flower hidden beneath the leaves	numerous, in an open, many-branched panicle , 30–70 cm tall
Perianth	sepals 3, green; petal 3, white , 15–25 mm long, strongly reflexed	tepals 6 , green, 6–10 mm long, spreading, prominently veined
Stamens	6, filaments white, anthers pink	6, filaments green, anthers yellow
Pistil	1, white, 6-angled, with 3 recurved styles/stigmas	1, green, styles/stigmas 3, spreading
Fruit	a broadly ovoid red berry , to 3 cm across, pendant	an oblong to ovoid capsule , 2–3 cm across, erect