

Fireweed



Other names: *Chamaenerion angustifolium* L., Gõh, Agqò, Gúdhe, Gúh, Épilobe à feuilles étroites
 Onagraceae - Evening-primrose Family

Quick ID

Height: 0.6-2m

Vegetation Type: herbaceous perennial

Leaves: alternate, lance-shaped

Flowers: open (no tube), four pink petals, four pink reflexed sepals

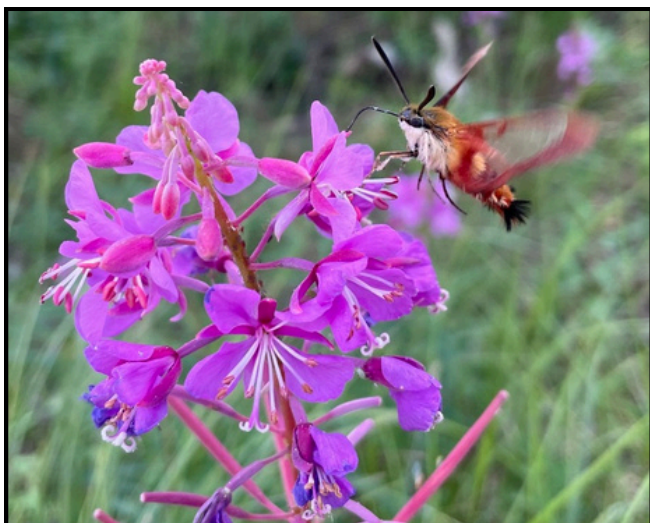
Inflorescence: flowers arranged at top of plant in a raceme separate from leaves

Stem: Reddish, mostly hairless

Habitat: Full sun to part shade; common in dry to moderately moist, disturbed sites; e.g. meadows, roadsides, forest edges, stream edges



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



Flowering

How often: Annually **When:** July-August

- Perfect flowers, self-compatible
- Bloom for several weeks with a few flowers open at a time
- Lowest flowers open first and you can see fruit developing low on the inflorescence as flowers above open
- Flowers relatively soon after fire, hence the common name fireweed

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Seed Forecasting

When: August

What to look for:

- Elongate fruit developing
- Lowest fruit on stem are oldest
- Reddish-brown colour when ripe

Seed Collection

When: August-Early October

What to look for:

- Fruit starting to split open at ends

Cleaning and Storage

Type: dry, dehiscent fruit

- Rub seeds with screen to remove hairs
- Store in cool dry place with good ventilation (i.e. Paper bags)



Germination

- Non-dormant seeds
- Sow in wet soil and after a month they should germinate at warm temperatures

Look-alike plants:



Fringed willow-herb
(Epilobium ciliatum)

Willow-herb species (*Epilobium spp.*) have:

- Hairier stems than fireweed
- Opposite leaves, especially on lower stem if not whole stem
- Flowers/fruit mostly originating at base of leaves along stem
- A short floral tube
- And typically live in wetlands