

PORTULACACEAE, Purslane Family

Herbs; leaves succulent; flowers hypogynous or partly epigynous, bisporangiate; perianth regular or nearly so; as referred to in this manual, sepals 2, petals 5 (6), usually separate (or these parts interpreted as bracts 2, sepals 5 (6), petals none); stamens 4-many, opposite petals when of same number, sometimes on corolla base; carpels united; styles separate above; ovary 1-loculed; ovules several to many; placentation central or basal; fruit a capsule.

- a Ovary partly inferior; cauline leaves more than 2; capsule circumscissile. 1. **PORTULACA**
a' Ovary superior; cauline leaves 2; capsule dehiscent lengthwise. 2. **CLAYTONIA**

1. PORTULACA L. Purslane

Fleshy, sometimes prostrate; leaves alternate; ovary partly inferior; sepals united at base; stamens 6-many; style branches 3-several; seeds many, minute.

- a Leaves flat, obovate; flowers small, petals yellow; stamens 6-10. 1. *P. oleracea*
a' Leaves terete; flowers large, petals of various brilliant colors; stamens many. 2. *P. grandiflora*

1. **Portulaca oleracea* L.

Common Purslane

Naturalized (native of S Asia)

Plants glabrous; leaves spatulate to obovate, flat; flowers yellow; seeds with low blunt tubercles.

REFERENCES: Riddell 1834:120 (naturalized); Sullivant 1840:15; Craig 1890:53, 70 (This bad weed is common in the rich soil of gardens and in waste ground, 20 Jul 1882, 22 Jun 1887, University Farm Oct 1887); Selby & Craig 1890:8 (introduced).

HERBARIUM RECORDS: 20 Aug 1911—½ mi. E of Westerville, garden, Hanawalt; 7 Jul 1992—OSU, Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, common weed in lawn, Cols., Clinton Twp., Lowden 4990.

2. **Portulaca grandiflora* Hook.

Moss-rose, Garden Purslane

Adventive (native of Argentina)

Plants spreading, densely hairy at nodes; leaves linear, somewhat terete; flowers of various colors; stamens numerous, approx. 10.

HERBARIUM RECORD: 11 Jul 1991—parking lot at Fountain Square, S of Morse Rd., local weed in nearly barren traffic islands, NE Cols. Quad., Cusick 29703.

2. CLAYTONIA L. Spring Beauty

Perennial glabrous small herb; underground stem a corm; cauline leaves 2, usually opposite; basal leaf or leaves similar; flowers hypogynous, in bracted raceme; sepals ovate, separate, persistent in fruit; petals usually 5, white or pink, with more deeply colored veins; stamens opposite petals and attached to their bases; carpels 3, united; style 3-branched at tip.

- a Leaves lanceolate, oblanceolate, or wider, definitely petioled. 1. *C. caroliniana*
a' Leaves linear to lanceolate, tapering to base, blade and petiole not differentiated. 2. *C. virginica*

1. †*Claytonia caroliniana* Michx.

Carolina Spring-beauty

Leaves 3-6 cm long, rarely 9 cm long; blade and petiole clearly differentiated, blades usually 10-15 mm wide.

REFERENCES: Craig 1890:70 (This species is very rare, I found a few specimens this spring in the SE part of the woods growing in the rich soil around an old stump, 22 May 1885); Kellerman & Werner 1893:225 (the specimens to authenticate this species are broad-leaved *Claytonia virginica* L.).

HERBARIUM RECORD: May 1887—Neil's Run, Cols., Craig.

NOTE: The cited specimen doesn't have a distinct petiole but the blade width is 15 mm, perhaps just a form of *Claytonia virginica*.

2. *Claytonia virginica* L.

Spring Beauty

Leaves long-tapering to base; blades 2-10 mm wide, scarcely differentiated from the petiole.

REFERENCES: Riddell 1834:120; Sullivant 1840:15; Craig 1890:70 (very abundant in the woods but only a few are found elsewhere, 6 Apr 1882, 10 Apr 1883, 16 Apr 1884, 23 Apr 1885, 13 Apr 1886, 19 Mar 1887, 1 Apr 1888, 17 Mar 1889); Selby & Craig 1890:8.

AMARANTHUS
PORTULACA
CLAYTONIA
MOLLUGO
SAGINA

