

## Valerianaceae

### valerian family

Three hundred species form 13 genera in this species, but only a single perennial herb reaches Nova Scotia. Familial characters include a corolla tube subtended by a calyx tube, its segments inrolled at anthesis and expanding to form a pappus. The corolla is five-merous and is nearly bilabiate, the tube spurred or swollen. The stamens are inserted and alternate with the corolla lobes, reduced to three. Pistil has three carpels, a single fertile one. Fruit is a indehiscent capsule.

### *Valeriana* L.

#### Valerian

The largest genus, it has more than 200 species, found worldwide. The perennial herbaceous species found here has pinnately compound petiolate leaves, reducing in size towards the top. Flowers are arranged in a panicle or corymb, perfect or unisexual. The calyx expands after flowering, the long bristle-like portions enclosing the nerved achene.

### *Valeriana officinalis* L.

#### Garden Valerian



Photo by David Mazerolle



Photo by Martin Thomas

A tall coarse plant, it exceeds 1m and bears opposite pinnate leaves. Petioles are decurrent. Flowers are crowded terminally and sweetly fragrant. They are pink to white and tubular; the stamens are exerted.

Flowers from mid-July to early August.

Found about old gardens, abandoned fields and roadsides, moist areas.

Annapolis, Kings and Cumberland Co., rapidly spreading in the Annapolis Valley and border region between NB and NS. Potentially invasive species.

A Eurasian introduction, ranging now from NF to MB, south to IA and MD; west coast.