

## ***Geranium robertianum*, Herb Robert**

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### **General Botanical Characteristics**

*Geranium robertianum* commonly has white glandular hairs on its stems that give it an oily and sticky feel. Often called “stinky Bob,” these glandular hairs create a distinct odor. The stems fork at the nodes. At each node is a pair of long-stemmed, deeply dissected leaves. Leaves become smaller as they approach the flower. The flowering stem also originates at the nodes and end in a pair of individual stalked flowers. The flowers usually have five petals. The color of the flowers can range from magenta to pink to white.



### **Seasonal Development**

Flowering occurs early spring to late fall, and sometimes early into winter months.

### **Distribution/Habitat**

*Geranium robertianum* is commonly found in the moist forest understory west of the Cascade Range. It can also be found on dry rocky outcrops along roadsides and in residential areas. It originally comes from forests in Europe, Asia, and North Africa.

### **Interesting Facts**

- Herb Robert has the ability to over-winter as seeds. Seeds that over-winter germinate in the spring, producing flowers and fruit later in the summer.
- Herb Robert was originally introduced as an ornamental species.

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### **References**

Noxious Weed Board, Washington State, December 2002,  
[http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed\\_info/contents.html](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_info/contents.html)

Photo from Gallery of Connecticut Wildflowers, December 2002,  
<http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/galleries/galleryindex.html>