

NOTE: This artist's description is part of a joint submission associated with two pieces of artwork in the present competition

## Alaskan Fireweed

The Alaskan Fireweed or scientifically known as “Chamerion/Epilobium angustifolium” is a commonly abundant plant that grows all around Alaska. It is the official floral emblem of the Yukon province of Canada since 1957. It was chosen because it is “common in every part of the Yukon, hardy and beautiful.” It is not the official flower of the State of Alaska, however people have been trying to get it to become the state flower since the 1930’s. A fun fact about the Alaskan fireweed is that it was the first plant to appear after the eruption of Mount St. Helen.

Fireweeds are important to all people around the world, since it's used to make honey, tea, syrup and nectar. They are also used for medical remedies for pain, swelling, fevers and many more. The plant is even edible! In fact, “the fireweed is one of the first plants to form after a forest fire.” The Latin *angustifolium* translates to “narrow-leaved” which represents the upper leaves of the plant. “*Chamberion* is a genus of flowering plants inside the *Onagraceae* family but is often included in the *Epilobium* family.”

The flower is so beautiful because of its dazzling purplish petals, height, and its elegance. We chose this flower because of its amazing

colors, and it was one of the flowers not chosen by anyone else that represents Alaska.

### References

U.S. Forest Service. Forest Service Shield. (n.d.). Retrieved December 14, 2021, from [https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/chamerion\\_angustifolium.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/chamerion_angustifolium.shtml)

WebMD. (n.d.). *Fireweed: Overview, uses, side effects, precautions, interactions, dosing and reviews*. WebMD. Retrieved December 14, 2021, from <https://www.webmd.com/vitamins/ai/ingredientmono-429/fireweed>

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