

***Camassia leichtlinii*, Camas**

General Botanical Characteristics

Camassia leichtlinii is a native perennial forb. Its peduncle is from 8 inches to 20 inches (20 cm - 50 cm) in height and supports a terminal raceme. The peduncle and basal leaves attach to a bulb that is up to 1.5 inches (6 cm) across. Its roots are fibrous. The fruit is a three-celled capsule with 5 to 10 seeds per flower.



Seasonal Development

Camas flowers from May to July, depending upon elevation and snow cover. Its leaves die and the seeds are dispersed from late May to August.

Distribution/Habitat

Camas grows on sites that are moist to wet in spring but dry by late spring or summer. It is commonly found near pools, springs, and intermittent streams.

Interesting Facts

- Camas is shade intolerant.
- It is found on open sites created by disturbance.
- It is most prevalent in initial and early seral communities but also occurs in later seres.

References

US Forest Service Plant Database, November 2002,
<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/camqua/introductory.html>

Day Trails, November 2002, <http://www.daytrails.com/Camas.html>

Photo from <http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/photom/R370.jpg>