

P1 AMERICAN SLOUGH GRASS

TRAITS: Light green, one meter tall. Flat narrow leaves and round cylindrical stems.

FLOWERS: Narrow spikes with clusters of 10-30 light green flowers pressed close to top of stem. Flowers in June and July.

HABITATS: Wet prairies and vernal pools.

EATEN BY: Seeds are food for waterfowl, seed-eating birds and small mammals.

“GEE WHIZ”: The flower head of this grass looks like rattlesnake tails.



P2 BARESTREAM DESERT PARSLEY

TRAITS: Native perennial forb 20-60 cm. tall. Flower stalks and finely divided leaves grow from base of plant.

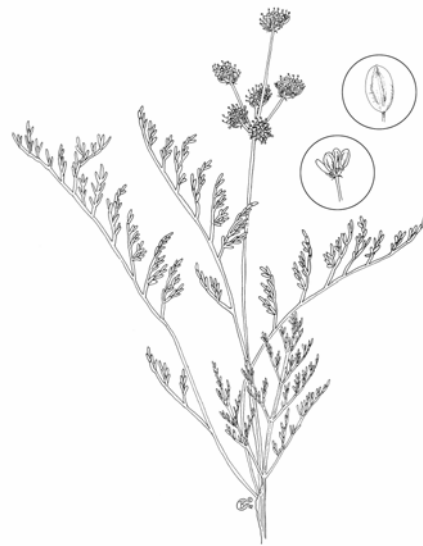
FLOWERS: Rays of yellow compound flowers. Flowers in April and May.

HABITATS: Wet prairies.

EATEN BY: Unknown

“GEE WHIZ”: Federally listed endangered species.

Only found in wet prairies of Western Oregon. Many of the plants cannot produce seeds.



P3 BLACK HAWTHORN

TRAITS: Native shrub/tree, 1-4 meters tall with spines on stems. Serrated edge leaves are 3-6 cm long.

FLOWERS: Clusters of white, nearly round petals 5-7 mm long flowers. Flowers in May and June. Then become clusters of small cherries-like purplish black fruit. Present through winter.

HABITATS: Shrub and wooded areas bordering or invading wet prairies.

EATEN BY: Fruit is a favorite of sparrows and robins, foxes, and raccoons.

“GEE WHIZ”: The thorns and thick foliage make a safe nesting sites for birds. This tree serves as one of the host plants for caterpillars of the Western tiger swallowtail.



P4 BLUE CALICO-FLOWER/
COMMON DOWNINGIA

TRAITS: Native annual forb 10-50 cm tall with thick stems that are single or highly branched. Thin narrow leaves, 1-3 cm long. Stringy roots.

FLOWERS: Single purple-blue flowers at ends of stems. 2-lipped (like snap-dragon flowers), lower lip has white. Blooms June to August.

HABITATS: Vernal pools of wet prairies.

EATEN BY: Unknown

“GEE WHIZ”: Cascade downingia is similar but smaller. It is 2-7 cm. tall.



P5 CATTAIL

TRAITS: Perennial native forb 1 to 3 meters tall. Strong, cylindrical stems filled with spongy core. Long dark grayish-green leaves about 1-2.5 cm wide grow as high or higher than flower clusters.

FLOWERS: Compact, thick cylindrical brown spike at top of stalk. Blooms late June through August.

HABITATS: Emergent wetlands, aquatic beds.

EATEN BY: Geese, other waterfowl, beavers, nutria.

“GEE WHIZ”: Cattails are important shelter and nesting habitat for redwing blackbirds. Native Americans ate roasted rhizomes and wove mats with the leaves and stems. Flower fluff was used for diapers and padding.



P6 COMMON CAMAS

TRAITS: Perennial native forb, 20 to 70 cm. tall. Thin leaves grow from plant base. Flower stalk grows taller than leaves.

FLOWERS: Attached by short stems to main stalk. Flowers are pale to deep blue, 3-5 cm. across with long lightly pointed petals. Blooms late April through June.

HABITATS: Wet prairies.

EATEN BY: The mild sweet flavor of the onion-shaped camas bulb was an important food for the Kalapuya Indians.

“GEE WHIZ”: Another species, death camas, is very poisonous. When not in flower the bulbs and leaves are similar and have been eaten resulting in death. The death camas flowers are white, small, and compact.

