

PERENNIAL

spánanexw

sḵwḵwú7mesh sníchim

spé-nx^w

Hehámíñəm

Common Camas

English

Camassia quamash

Latin

BLOOM & FRUITS

Deep plush-purple spikes of star-shaped flowers from April to May.

USE BY PEOPLE & CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The bulb is not only an important traditional food for Coast Salish communities, but an important staple to the complex trading economies between nations and different eco-systems. The bulbs are prepared by pit roasting or boiling.

Care must be taken not to confuse it with toxic Death camas (*Zigadenus venenosus*) which has white flowers but similar leaves.

WILDLIFE VALUE

Provides spring forage for a variety of pollinators.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Keep soil consistently moist during the spring, but can be allowed to dry in the summer. Goes dormant after blooming. Will self-seed but plants take 3-4 years to bloom.

EXPOSURE



MAX HEIGHT

1ft

MOISTURE

Moist to dry

GROWING EASE

Medium

USE VALUE

ATTRACTS



CONTAINER TOLERANCE

High