Common Camas

Small Camas | *Camassia quamash (Pursh) Greene*



THE SPRING MEADOW

Blue stars
across the grass

Each spring, slender stems of blue-violet Common Camas rise above narrow, grass-like leaves. In coastal meadows, their flowers help support visiting insects.

WHEN IT FLOWERS

Around Victoria, often April to May, sometimes into June as conditions vary.

IN A GARRY OAK MEADOW

Common Camas grows in suitable, seasonally moist meadow openings. It is not present under every oak.

LIVING LANDSCAPES

Camas has longstanding and continuing importance in Coast Salish food traditions and stewardship. Practices differ among Nations.

FIELD NOTES

RECOGNIZE IT

Each blue-violet flower has six tepals and six stamens above narrow, grass-like leaves.

WHERE IT GROWS

Seasonally moist grasslands, including some sunny Garry Oak meadow openings.

LOOK, DON'T PICK

Enjoy flowers in place. Wild camas bulbs can resemble poisonous death camas.

Sources: E-Flora BC; Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team; Parks Canada; Kootenay Native Plant Society.