Shooting Star

Broad-leaved Shootingstar | *Primula hendersonii*



A FLOWER IN MOTION

Spring stars *above the grass*

Slender stalks carry pink-to-lavender flowers with petals swept sharply back. Their pointed centres give these early meadow blossoms a striking, upside-down appearance.

FLOWERING SEASON

Blooms in spring, often from March into May in coastal BC. Seasonal timing varies by site and weather.

WHERE IT GROWS

Open Garry Oak woodland, meadow openings and rocky habitats on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

A POLLEN SPECIALIST

The flowers provide pollen rather than nectar. Visiting bumble bees can shake pollen free through buzz pollination.

FIELD NOTES

RECOGNIZE IT

Broad basal leaves, a mostly leafless stalk and several nodding flowers with swept-back petals and a pointed centre.

TWO SCIENTIFIC NAMES

Also widely known as Dodecatheon hendersonii; Primula hendersonii is the accepted name used here.

HABITAT MATTERS

Yellow-listed and provincially S4 (2019), yet its Garry Oak-associated habitat remains vulnerable.

Sources: BC Conservation Data Centre; E-Flora BC; GOERT.