

Allium constrictum (Ownbey & Mingrone) P.M.

Peterson, Annable & Rieseberg

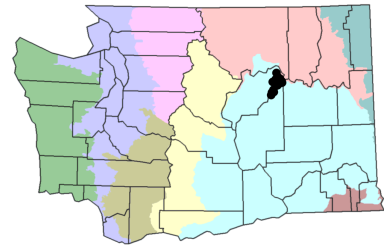
synonym: *Allium douglasii* Hook. var. *constrictum* Ownbey
& Mingrone

constricted Douglas' onion

Liliaceae - lily family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive

rank: G2G3 / S2S3



General Description: Pink-flowered bulb-bearing perennial, 15-20 cm tall. Bulbs ovoid, 1-5 or more, not clustered. Outer bulb coats enclosing 1 or more bulbs, brownish, membranous. Leaves 2, usually persistent, green when flowering; blade solid, flat, broadly channeled, curved or sickle-shaped, 10-35 cm x 1-3 (5) mm.

Floral Characteristics: Flower stalk persistent, solitary, round in cross section, 15-20 cm x 1-4 mm, enlarged above and conspicuously constricted just under the inflorescence. Tepals 6, 7-8 mm, light pink to rose with prominent green or reddish midribs, narrowly lanceolate, becoming papery in fruit. Ovary crested with 6 low, rounded, prominent ridges with smooth margins.

Fruits: Seeds black, shining. Identifiable late April to July.

Identification Tips: Distinguished by the constriction of the stalk just below the inflorescence. This is most noticeable before the plant blooms (late April to May) while the developing flower cluster is covered by a spherical, greenish white sheath. *Allium macrum*, *A. scilloides*, *A. acuminatum*, and *A. geyeri* occur in the same region but do not have a constriction just below the inflorescence.

Range: Local endemic from an area of about 37 x 18 km (23 x 11 mi.).

Habitat/Ecology: Vernal moist areas on flat basalt lithosols, margins of vernal ponds, and on open slopes with little or no shade; becoming less dense on drier lithosols. Elevations: 630-780 m (2070-2550 ft). Associated species include stiff sagebrush (*Artemisia rigida*), thyme buckwheat (*Eriogonum thymoides*), spinescent fameflower (*Phemeranthus spinescens*), sagebrush violet (*Viola trinervata*), Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), biscuitroot (*Lomatium* spp.), onion (*Allium macrum*, *A. acuminatum*), miners lettuce (*Montia linearis*), and biological soil crusts. Rust infections are commonly seen; heavily infected plants show a significant loss of vigor, including seed abortion.

Comments: The limited geographic range and restricted habitats are the primary factors contributing to its status. Apparently, cattle grazing in low to moderate intensities has not been detrimental.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 26; Peterson et al. 1988.



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