

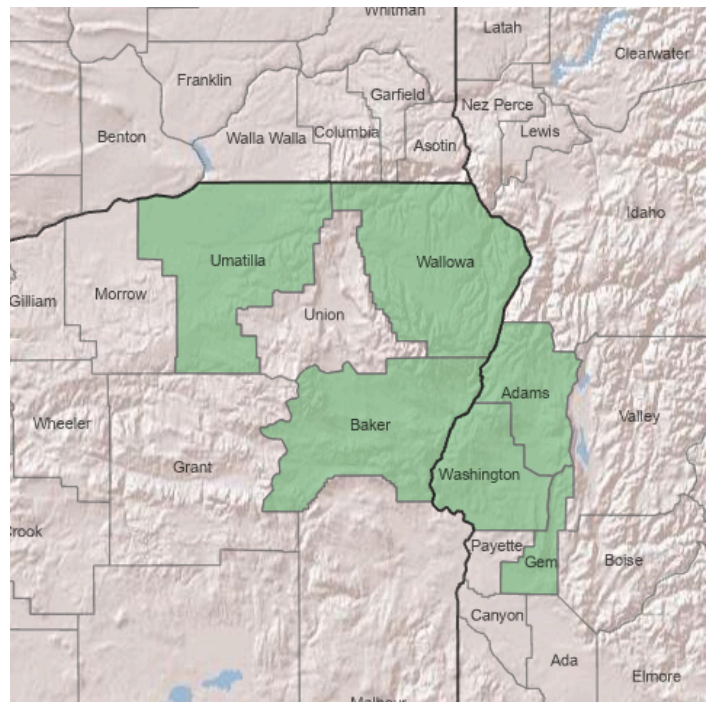
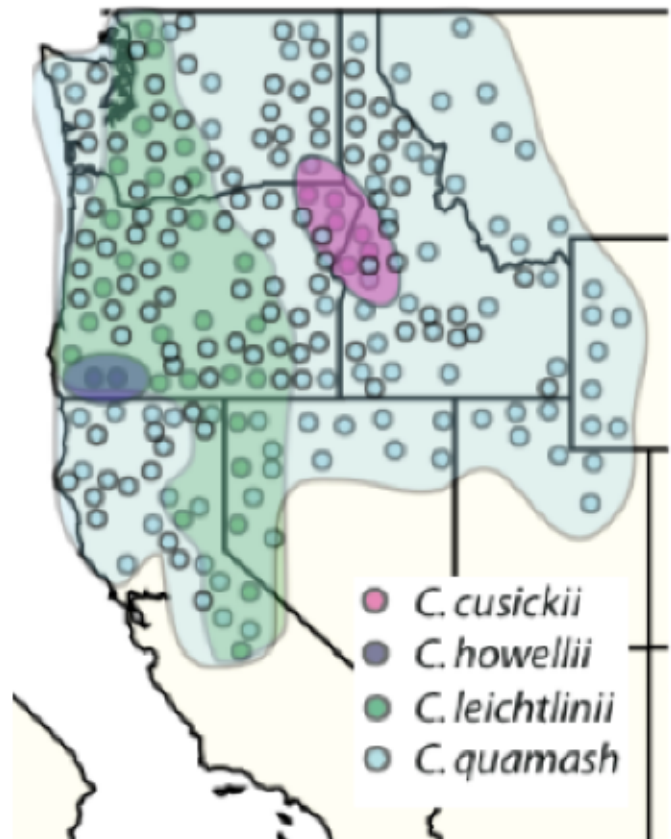


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camassia_cusickii

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	—
Scientific Name	Asparagaceae [3]
Common Name	Asparagus family [3]
Species Scientific Name	—

Scientific Name	<i>Camassia cusickii</i> S. Watson [3]
Varieties	none
Sub-species	none
Cultivar	none
Common Synonym(s)	CACU; <i>Camassia cusickii</i> (S. Watson); Cusick's camas; Cusick's quamash
Common Name(s)	Cusick's camas; Cusick's quamash
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	CACU
GENERAL INFORMATION	

Geographical range



Found in western North America: SE WA State; NE OR; West-central ID; It is endemic to the southern

	end of Hells Canyon. Most plants are on the Oregon side of the Snake River, but it also has been found on the Idaho side. [4, 8, 9, 12]
Ecological distribution	It prefers open, rocky slopes and hillsides whose soils saturate in the spring, but dry out by midsummer. [2, 4, 6, 7]
Climate and elevation range	Plants grow from 600-2000 m [2,5]
Local habitat and abundance	Plants have been found on south-facing slopes, at the bases of basalt ledges as well as seasonal seeps. Commonly found on steep terrain. Some populations contain at least 200 individuals. Associated species may include: <i>Erythranthe sp.</i> , <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> , <i>Salix lasiolepis</i> , <i>Quercus garryana</i> , <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> , <i>Allium acuminatum</i> . [14, 15]
Plant strategy type / successional stage	Stress tolerator; clonal propagator [2,5]
Plant characteristics	Monocotyledonous perennial forb/herb; Plants: diurnal; 50–90 cm tall; bulbs closely clustered to form evident “colony” of 2–20 or more basal shoots. Leaves: rarely fewer than 10, 25-70 x 2.5 cm. Inflorescences: nodes 20–70, with 2–30 flowers open at a time; sterile bracts 0–7, most longer than pedicel, tan to blue. Flowers: corollas bilateral, radial or irregular, varying in symmetry on a single raceme; tepals 15–35 × 3–5 mm, pale blue to blue-violet, withering separately, persistent along with old flowers; 3 veins; anthers yellow, 3.5–5 mm. Flowering mid--late spring, May to June. Fruits: erect, appressed to stem, oblong, 15–25 mm.

	<p>Seeds: 5–10 per locule.</p> <p>Cusick’s camas is most readily distinguished from all other <i>Camassia</i> species in Oregon by its high basal leaf number (10 or more) and clonal habit. [2, 5]</p>
PROPAGATION DETAILS	
Ecotype	East cascade in WA; columbia plateau, blue mountains in OR; blue mountains, snake river plain in ID [1]
Propagation Goal	bulbs
Propagation Method	vegetative/clonal
Product Type	Bulbs or field-grown
Stock Type	n/a
Time to Grow	Bulbs should be planted in early autumn; Sow seeds in fall, let overwinter, germinate in spring. [11]
Target Specifications	n/a
Propagule Collection Instructions	<p>Excavate bulbs from early summer through mid-autumn, after the period of seed maturation, foliar senescence, and formation of ‘daughter’ bulb. Digging windows can be narrow.</p> <p>Bulbs may be as deep as 16 in below surface. Depth is limited by shallow water tables, anoxic soils, or restrictive layers. [10, 11, 13]</p>
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Space bulbs in beds or landscapes 6-8 in apart, or about 8-10 individuals per sq. ft. A natural stand may have as many as 9 individuals per sq. ft. [11, 13]
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Bulbs should be stored in a cool, dark, well-ventilated space. Storage in dry peat moss is recommended.

	<p>Transport and store bulbs at 63-68°F. Do not let them completely desiccate. A freezing/thawing scarification may help simulate germination. [10, 11, 13]</p>
<p>Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops</p>	<p>Plant bulbs outdoors in autumn or early winter when soils are moist and cool, generally below 60°F.</p> <p>Larger bulbs require greater planting depths. Generally, plant a bulb three times deeper than its diameter.</p> <p>Commercial growers plant from October to November into well-draining soil with a pH of 6 or 7. They prefer soils with at least 2% organic matter. Straw mulch is applied as a 2 in topdressing. [13]</p>
<p>Establishment Phase Details</p>	<p>During establishment, keep growing media moist with daily watering. Stop watering after the plant leaves senesce post-flowering. This allows the bulbs to cure to the proper dryness. Late summer burying has historically been used to improve the health of the stand, as well as reduce competition with other plants. Avoid mowing over or grazing animals over leaves. [13]</p>
<p>Length of Establishment Phase</p>	<p>If growing bulbs for flowers, bulbs must be 3-5 years old with 3-4 bulb scars or leaves. [10, 13]</p>
<p>Active Growth Phase</p>	<p>Beds or patches should be cleared of rocks, brush, and woody debris. Only harvest bulbs after seeds are produced and leafy vegetation dries and senesces. Do not use a burning method without proper permits and experience. [10, 11, 13]</p>
<p>Length of Active Growth Phase</p>	<p>Individuals can live as long as 15-20 years. As a stand gets older, the foliage becomes more dense and flowers become fewer. This indicates that the bulbs have become too crowded and should be divided and replanted as need be. [10, 13]</p>
<p>Hardening Phase</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Length of Hardening Phase	n/a
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Transport and store in cool, dry environments that are well-ventilated. Similar to tulips and daffodils, store bulbs in a dry media like peat moss. [10, 11, 13]
Length of Storage	n/a
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	If growing bulbs for seed, camas germination is aided by 42-100 days of cold temperatures (34-40°F) under moist stratification. As high as 90% germination rate may be attained this way. [13]
Other Comments	<p>Very little species-specific information is available for CACU. Methods were adapted from protocols of its closest living relatives, CALE (<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>) and CAHO (<i>Camassia howellii</i>).</p> <p>Collection from wild populations should not be done without a permit.</p> <p>CACU is not considered a food source in the same way that CALE and CAHO are. The bulbs of CACU are reportedly unpalatable. [10]</p>
INFORMATION SOURCES	
References	See below
Other Sources Consulted	See below
Protocol Author	Sean Flory
Date Protocol Created or Updated	05/19/25

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