PLANT FACT SHEET

Camassia quamash (Pursh) Greene

GENUS *Camassia* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Western Camass, Camass lily, Quamash

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Bulb

The bulbous root is eaten raw, boiled or baked. They can be used in pies.
They can be boiled down to a syrup or pounded into cakes that are sun dried for future use.
Caution: This plant should not be confused with death camass (Zigadenus venenosus).

DESCRIPTION

A plant with a bulb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 25-90 cm high and 10-15 cm wide. It has grass-like leaves. It forms large clumps. The leaves are blue-green and 50 cm long. They all grow from the base and are 5-15 mm wide. The flower spikes are blue. The flowers are 5 cm across. The flowers are star shaped. The fruit are dry capsules with shiny black seeds. The bulbs are 3-5 cm across. The bulb is edible.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. Plants can grow in full sun or light shade. It does best in moist but not waterlogged soil. It is resistant to frost and sensitive to drought. It suits hardiness zones 5-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The bulbs are planted 10 cm deep and plants spaced 20-25 cm apart.

NOTES

It is low in starch and high in sugar. There are 6 Camassia species.
Also put in the family Hyacinthaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/7d7ff761-3824-4a35-91a8-24038d36c9d3