

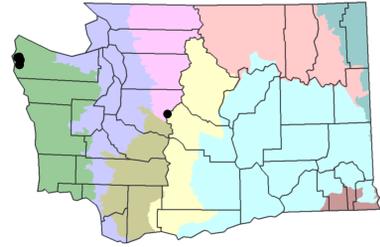
Gentiana douglasiana Bong.

swamp gentian

Gentianaceae - gentian family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S2



General Description: Hairless annual herb with several erect, freely branching stems, 5-20 cm tall. Stems distinctly angled. Basal leaves few, egg-shaped to elliptic, 5-15 mm long, forming a rosette. Stem leaves similar, few, 5-10 mm long, opposite, sessile, fused at the base, and slightly decurrent.

Floral Characteristics: Flat-topped to rounded cymose inflorescences arise from most of the nodes of the stem leaves. Flowers mostly terminal, long-stalked, 5-parted, and subtended by small bracts that are ovate, acute, and keeled. Calyx 4-6 mm, a little less than 1/2 the length of the corolla, with 5 pointed, keeled lobes; calyx tube membranous above the base of the lobes. Corollas 10-13 mm long, tubular with 5 oblong-lanceolate lobes. The inner surface of the corolla is pleated where the lobes meet; pleats extend for about 2/3 the length of the lobes and are forked at the tip. Tube white with purplish streaks, drying yellowish; lobes blue on the back. Blooms July to September.

Fruits: Oblong, wing-margined, flattened capsules with many dark brown spindle-shaped seeds, 1.5 mm long.

Identification Tips: *Gentiana douglasiana* is the only annual gentian with white flowers that are 5-lobed, pleated, and not fringed within.

Range: Common in coastal B.C. and north to southeast A.K. It reaches the southern part of its range in WA .

Habitat/Ecology: Wet to moist meadows, seeps, prairie drainages, pond edges, seasonally flooded areas, and small bogs undergoing succession to coniferous forest. Elevations for Clallam Co. populations range from 5 to 75 m (20-240 ft); Kittitas Co. populations are at 890 to 930 m (2920-3050 ft). Associated species include western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Sitka alder (*Alnus sinuata*), alpine laurel (*Kalmia microphylla*), bog Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), sedges (*Carex livida* and others), cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*), sweetgale (*Myrica gale*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.).

Comments: Natural succession may be causing loss of habitat for this species, as small bogs and wet meadows progress to forested habitats. One site has been affected by road construction and maintenance activities.

References: Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 3.

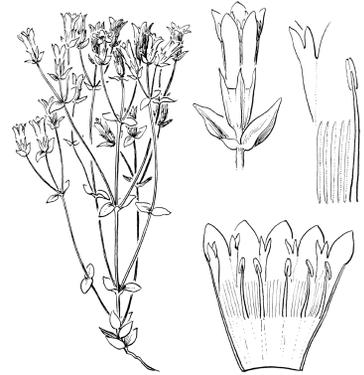


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