

Symphyotrichum hallii (A. Gray) G.L. Nesom

synonym: *Aster chilensis* Nees ssp. *hallii* (A. Gray)

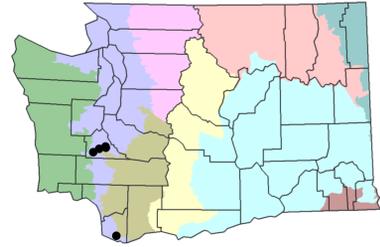
Cronquist, *Aster hallii* A. Gray

Hall's aster

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Fibrous-rooted perennial, 20-100 cm tall, from a rhizome or short, thickened, woody caudex, the stem hairy at least above. Leaves hairless to sparsely hairy with mostly smooth margins, the lower leaves usually oblanceolate, petiolate, and commonly deciduous by flowering time, except in smaller plants. Middle and upper leaves linear, sessile, 2-10 cm x 2-20 mm.

Floral Characteristics: One to many radiate heads in a conspicuously wide-spreading, bracteate inflorescence, the bracts mostly obtuse or somewhat acute, 2-4 times as long as wide. Involucre 5-7 mm high, with overlapping involucre bracts, the outer obtuse and markedly shorter than the inner, not leaflike in texture or color but green-tipped, sometimes obscurely mucronate-tipped. Rays white, 15-40, each 5-15 mm long. Flowers July to October.

Fruits: Several-nerved, sparsely hairy achenes; pappus tawny.

Identification Tips: Distinguished from the common *Symphyotrichum subspicatum**, *S. foliaceum**, and *S. spathulatum** by its strongly graduated involucre and outer involucre bracts that are markedly shorter than the inner ones, obtuse and not leaflike. *Symphyotrichum ascendens** and *S. chilense** are distinguished by the bracts of their inflorescences, which if present, are mostly erect, greater than 4 times as long as wide, and markedly acute; their rays are usually blue or pinkish (sometimes white).

Range: OR and WA, west of the Cascade Mts.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist to dry prairies and open places in valleys and plains. In WA this species occurs in wet and dry remnant prairies at 60-140 m (190-470 ft). Associated species include snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), colonial bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris*), goldenrod (*Solidago lepida* var. *salebrosa*), white-top aster (*Sericocarpus rigidus**), Douglas aster (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum**), and oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*).

Comments: This species is apparently secure in OR.

References: Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 1; Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 20.



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