

***Delphinium leucophaeum* Greene**

synonym: *Delphinium nuttallii* A. Gray ssp. *ochroleucum*

(Nutt.) M.J. Warnock

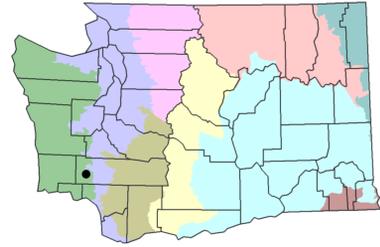
pale larkspur

Ranunculaceae - buttercup family

status: State Endangered, Federal Species of Concern,

BLM strategic

rank: G2Q / S1



General Description: Slender perennial from small globelike tubers; stems single, 2-6 (10) dm tall. Leaves with long petioles, distributed evenly along the stem. Lower leaves palmate, usually with 5 dissected lobes; ultimate segments linear to narrowly lanceolate, 1-2 (3) mm broad.

Floral Characteristics: Racemes with 6-30 flowers. Flowers not glandular, white to cream-colored, sometimes greenish blue on the back; drying to yellowish with greenish or yellowish tips. Sepals 5, the upper ones forming a pronounced spur 10-14 mm long (usually less than 12 mm); lateral pair 9-14 mm long. Petals in 2 pairs: lower ones white or faintly bluish, with a notched tip; upper ones may have lavender edges. Flowers May to June.

Fruits: Follicles 8-12 mm long, hairy, not glandular. Fruits May to August.

Identification Tips: *D. pavonaceum* is the only other larkspur with white or cream-colored flowers west of the Cascades. It has a longer spur, (14) 15-20 mm, and glandular flowers, at least on the lower petals.

Range: Northern Willamette Valley of OR and 1 location in WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Undisturbed dry bluffs, open ground, and moist lowland meadows; now largely restricted to roadside ditches and fencerows. Associated species include Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*), broadleaf stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), and hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*). Elevations: 30-70 m (125-240 ft). Individuals generally do not flower for at least the first 5 years under field conditions.

Comments: The single WA population is declining. It has been harmed by roadside herbicide applications, and most of its habitat is restricted to a narrow strip between a paved road and adjacent pastures. Past conversion of land to agricultural and residential use probably resulted in significant losses of habitat and plants. Currently, the site is dominated by nonnative grasses, which may negatively impact seedling establishment. This taxon is rare throughout its range.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 3.

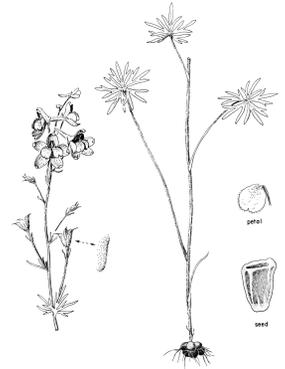


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