



Janene Walkky

Common Camas, *Camassia quamash*

Camas once flourished in the meadows of the Pacific Northwestern region of the US. The bulbs were so abundant that explorer Meriwether Lewis noted in his journal, “*The quawmash is now in blume and from the colour of its bloom at a short distance it resembles a lake of fine clear water, so complete in this deseption that on first sight I could have sworn that it was water.*” The bulbs were a staple food of native peoples.