

***Tauschia tenuissima*** (Geyer ex Hook.) Mathias & Constance

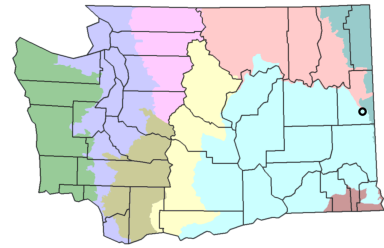
synonym: *Lomatium oregonioides* (J.M. Coult. & Rose)  
Mathias

Leiberg's tauschia

Apiaceae - carrot family

status: State Possibly Extirpated, BLM strategic, USFS  
strategic

rank: G3 / SX



**General Description:** Plants perennial, inconspicuous, hairless, 3-10 cm tall when blooming, but elongating up to 3 dm or more in fruit; root nearly spherical, about 1 cm diameter. Leaves few, appearing basal, ternately or pinnately cleft into 3-13 narrowly linear segments up to 5 cm x 1.5 mm.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers white to cream-colored; rays of the umbel mostly 4-8, elongating unequally, the longer ones 5-15 cm long at maturity. Bractlets of involucre inconspicuous, linear or lanceolate, 1-3 mm long. Pedicels very short, 0.5-3 mm long. Flowers April to May; stems elongate through June.

**Fruits:** Linear to somewhat elliptic schizocarps, 6-10 x 1-1.5 mm, quadrangular or nearly round in cross section, lacking side wings.

**Identification Tips:** Distinguished by its early flowering, preference for meadow habitats, and fruits lacking wings. Difficult to locate unless found in dense patches, when the distinctive creamy white flowers are easier to spot. The genus *Lomatium* is similar, but mature fruits of *Lomatium* are dorsally flattened and marginally winged, while those of *Tauschia* are cylindrical or slightly laterally compressed and lack wings.

**Range:** Regional endemic currently known from ID. Formerly known in WA from 1 historical collection.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Grassy openings in moist to wet meadows, river floodplains, stream banks. Habitat is usually flat, although a few sites are on moderate slopes with perched water tables. Elevations: 785-975 m (2580-3200 ft). Substrates are productive silt loams (loess), alluvium, or rich soils desirable for cultivation. *T. tenuissima* is eliminated once cultivation occurs; fallow fields fail to revegetate with the species. The best sites are meadows surrounded by mixed coniferous forests of grand fir (*Abies grandis*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western white pine (*Pinus monticola*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), and larch (*Larix* spp.). Rarely, *T. tenuissima* inhabits cold air drainages with scattered subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*).

**Comments:** There are no known extant populations in WA. The species is rare in ID.

**References:** Mathias & Constance 1973.



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