

***Anemone patens* (L.) var. *multifida* Pritz.**

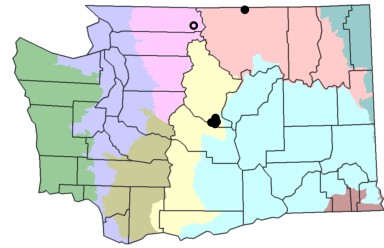
synonym: *Anemone nuttalliana* DC., *Pulsatilla patens* (L.)

Mill. ssp. *multifida* (Pritz.) Zämelis
pasqueflower

Ranunculaceae - buttercup family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T4 / S1



General Description: Grayish hairy perennial with 1 to many stems 5-25 (35) cm tall. Basal leaves numerous, usually developing after the first flowers, petioles long, blades (3) 4-10 (12) cm broad, primarily dissected into 3 leaflets, which are further dissected into strongly veined, linear divisions 1-2 (3) mm broad. Leaves on peduncles sessile with clasping bases, deeply divided into 4-6 linear segments.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers solitary. Sepals 5-8, showy, petal-like, blue to purple (rarely nearly white), (2) 2.5-3.5 (4) cm long. Stamens 150-200. Flowers late May to August, often near the edge of melting snow.

Fruits: Achenes numerous, linear to ellipsoid, silky, about 3 mm long, with plumelike beaks, 2-3.5 cm long, giving the fruiting head the appearance of a small feather duster.

Identification Tips: The long plumose achene beaks, blue to purple sepals, and leaves dissected into linear segments distinguish this taxon. *A. occidentalis* is the only other *Anemone* in our region with long (generally greater than 20 mm), plumose achene beaks. However, it has mostly white sepals tinged with purple or blue, and stem leaves 2 or more times pinnately compound with small linear ultimate segments.

Range: AK to Alberta, south through the Great Plains to MT, TX, and IL. Disjunct in WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Prairies and grasslands, open alpine slopes and ridges in loose, sandy, well-drained soil, and open woods with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Elevations in WA: 700-2000 m (2300-6600 ft). Plants may remain dormant for many years. This species is not tolerant of major disturbances from activities such as digging and plowing, but mild disruptions may be beneficial. Mowing, grazing, or fire may activate and increase the number of underground dormant buds, leading to a larger and more branched rootstock.

Comments: Populations in WA are small and disjunct from the ordinary range of the species. Threats include disturbance from timber harvesting, agricultural developments, and overcollecting. This taxon is also rare in IL and Quebec.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 3; Ordway 1984; Wildeman & Steeves 1982.



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
©1964 University of Washington
Press



© Richard Ramsden



photo by Washington Natural
Heritage Program