

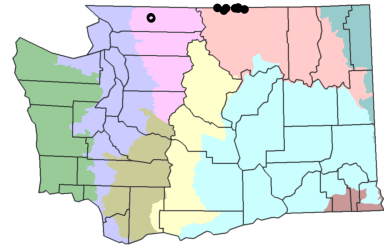
# ***Gentiana glauca*** Pall.

glaucous gentian

Gentianaceae - gentian family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4G5 / S2



**General Description:** Hairless perennial herb, 4-15 cm tall, with erect, solitary stems arising from creeping rootstocks. Basal rosette leaves fleshy, elliptic to oval, 1-2 cm long; stem leaves opposite, in 2-4 pairs, smaller (5-10 mm long), egg-shaped to more elongate.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence a terminal, flat-topped cluster of nearly sessile or short-stalked flowers; stalks up to 8 mm long. Bracts subtending the flowers are similar to the stem leaves or sometimes broader. Calyx tubular, 5-7 mm long, usually bluish-tinged, inconspicuously keeled, about 1/2 the length of the corolla, and without an inner membranous lining extending above the base of the lobes. Corollas deep blue, greenish blue, or rarely yellowish white, 1-2 cm long, tubular, with 5 lobes. Lobes widely triangular, 2-2.5 mm long, with small pleats where the lobes meet. Pleat lobes simple (not 2-toothed), triangular-ovate. Stamens shorter than the corolla tubes; anthers up to 1.5 mm long. Flowers July to September.

**Fruits:** Broadly lanceolate, 1-chambered capsules. Seeds flattened, pale tan, honeycomb-pitted, irregularly wrinkled, wing-margined, 0.7-1.0 mm long.

**Identification Tips:** *Gentiana glauca* can be identified by the combination of its rhizomatous, perennial habit; its relatively small flowers (less than 2.5 cm long) with simple pleats where the lobes meet; and its cluster of short-stalked, usually deep blue flowers.

**Range:** AK, Yukon, N.W.T., B.C., Alberta, MT, and WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** On hummocks and in seepage areas in moist alpine and subalpine meadows. Elevations in WA: 1890-2350 m (6200-7700 ft). Associated species include Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), willow (*Salix* spp.), mountain heather (*Phyllodoce* spp., *Cassiope tetragona*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), dwarf bilberry (*Vaccinium caespitosum*), mosses, and lichens. At one site, *G. glauca* grows in the same hummocky areas as *Gentianella tenella*; *G. glauca* grows directly on hummocks, while *Gentianella tenella* never grows directly on hummocks.

**Comments:** Some populations are decreasing, due to trampling by hikers and trail maintenance, and grazing by horses, cows, and sheep. This species is also rare in MT and Alberta.

**References:** Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 3.

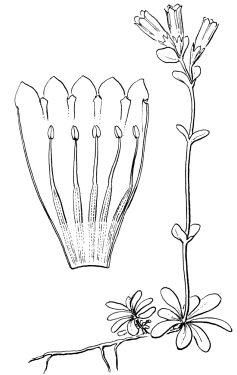


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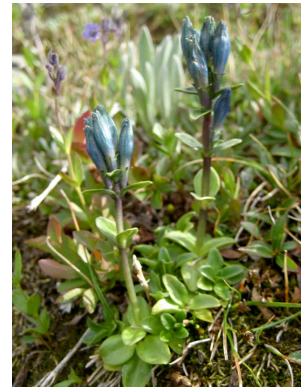


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