

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Allium canadense var. *fraseri* – FRASER WILD ONION [Alliaceae/Liliaceae]

Allium canadense L. var. *fraseri* Owney, FRASER WILD ONION. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, rosetted, fibrous-rooted, scapose, inflorescence to 40 cm tall; shoot from bulb with 2–6 basal leaves with white sheath belowground, glabrous, when crushed with odor like onion (*Allium*); bulb to 60 mm deep, ovoid, at maturity 12–20 × 10–20 mm, outer coats brown and several persisting as a fibrous reticulum, lacking bulblets (bulbils) on inflorescence and also without basal bulbils; adventitious roots from base (stem) of bulb.

Leaves: helically alternate, simple with sheath; sheath closed from bulb upward to ground level, white; blade flattened on upper side to crescent-shaped in \times -section, 65–280 × 3–6.3 mm, < leaves, minutely bumpy on margins, acuminate at tip, parallel-veined, midrib not evident. **Inflorescence:** umbel-like, hemispheroid, ca. 40 mm across, 20–30+-flowered, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle ascending to erect, cylindric, 1.7–3 mm diameter, green, glabrous; bract at top of peduncle enclosing flower buds, closed, having 3 prominent veins and splitting downward with 3 tail-like tips aging reflexed, membranous drying scarious and papery, 12–16 mm long, parallel-veined; bractlet subtending pedicel (except outer pedicels), membranous, slender, to 7.5 mm long; pedicels radiating, mostly 13–21 × ± 0.5 mm. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 10–12 mm across; **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, ± monomorphic, spreading, narrowly ovate to elliptic, 5.5–7 × 1.3–3.1 mm alternating wide and narrow widths, outer tepals acute and inner tepals obtuse to rounded at tip and narrower than outer whorl, white often with a faint green midstripe to midpoint on lower surface; **stamens** 6 in 2 close whorls, fused to bases of tepals and to each other; filaments erect, tapered to base, 3.1–4.6 × 0.4–0.5 mm, fused to 0.5 mm at flaring base, of inner whorl slightly wider and opposite inner whorl tepals, white; anthers versatile-dorsifixed or dorsifixed, dithecal, 1.2–1.7 mm long, white to cream-colored or pale yellow (rose), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white to pale yellow; **pistil** 1, 4–5 mm long; ovary superior, lanceoloid to oblate conspicuously 3-lobed and lacking crests, 1.7–2.8 × 0.4 mm, white, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with 2 ovule; **nectaries** = patches on ovary wall opposite inner tepals, producing nectar trapped at base of fused filament; style erect in center of ovary depression, tapered to tip, white, lacking crests, minutely 3-lobed at tip. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 3-seeded, conspicuously 3-lobed, ca. 3 mm across, pale green (immature) drying tannish. **Seed:** strongly wedged-shaped, ca. 1.5 × 1.5 mm, glossy black, round on back and top and flattish on 2 sides.

A. C. Gibson