

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Allium drummondii – DRUMMOND WILD ONION, WILD GARLIC [Alliaceae; alt. Liliaceae]

Allium drummondii von Regel, DRUMMOND WILD ONION, WILD GARLIC. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, fibrous-rooted, scapose with several erect inflorescences, in range to 22 cm tall; shoots 2–3-leaved at flowering but blades withering at tips, glabrous, with odor of onion when crushed; bulbs ± ovoid, < 10 mm diameter, encrusted with dried, brownish layers, netlike (reticulate) on outer layers, the reticulations close with gaps longer than wider; adventitious roots from base of bulb. **Stems (scapes):** erect, cylindric, ca. 2.5 mm diameter, green from base upward, white belowground, tough with fibrous core. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple and sheathing; sheath 25–35 mm long from top of bulb, membranous aging scarious, extending to or slightly above soil surface; blade < inflorescence, linear, in range 100–150 mm long, somewhat fleshy and solid, in x-section crescent-shaped to almost semicircular, entire, parallel-veined. **Inflorescence:** umbel-like, terminal, hemispheric, 25–39 mm across, 20+-flowered with as many as 1/3 flowers open at once, bracteate, glabrous; bract at top of scape 1, covering flower buds when emerging from soil, fused > 3/4 later splitting downward at least once but not to base, usually with 3 tail-like (caudate) tips, to 12 mm long, 3(–4)-veined, colorless with fine red veins ending in tips, persistent, papery, and reflexed in fruit; bractlet subtending pedicel absent on outer 10 flower, on inner flowers membranous and threadlike, to 6 mm long, papery in tiny bud; pedicel spreading to ascending, at anthesis to 11.5 mm long increasing slightly and radiating in fruit; young flower buds appearing keeled and 3-sided. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 10–12 mm across, bowl-shaped; **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, ± free fusion to 0.7 mm at bases, spreading, ± monomorphic, 6–7 mm long, narrowly ovate to elliptic, 2.7–3 mm wide, with raised green midvein (outer tepals), always narrower, narrowly elliptic to widely oblanceolate, 2.1–2.4 mm wide, usually with white midvein not raised (inner tepals), tube greenish alternating white (pale purple), tepals usually white and with green midvein at base changing upward to light purple at tip (variable within population), perianth persistent, papery, and bell-shaped in fruit; **stamens** 6, thickly fused with bases of tepals; filaments ascending, subequal, free portion 3.8–4.3 mm long (opposite outer tepals) and longer stamens 3.7–4.7 mm long (opposite inner tepals), white, gradually tapered base to narrow at top, glabrous; anthers versatile, dithecal, 1–1.45 mm long, cream to pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen cream; **nectary** beneath ovary and concealed by stamen bases, green patches, producing copious nectar; **pistil** 1, 4–4.5 mm long, on a green receptacle; ovary superior, shallowly 3-lobed lacking ridges on lobes, ca. 1 × 1.7 mm, white, 3-grooved not crested at anthesis, 3-chambered, each chamber with 2 ovules attached to center; style 3–3.5 mm long, white, unbranched, widest just below midpoint; stigma positioned 1 mm below level of versatile anthers, terminal, domed, 0.3 mm diameter. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 widely spreading valves, typically 1–3-seeded, conspicuously 3-lobed, before dehiscence ca. 3 × 3–3.5 × 3 mm, scarious, valves broadly heart-shaped and somewhat smaller if without seed or seeds; style persistent in center from depressed junction of chambers (midpoint of capsule); perianth persistent, bell-shaped or individual tepals ascending, ± 6 mm long, papery and light straw-colored, tepals somewhat keeled. **Seed:** typically 3-sided, 1.2–1.8 mm, black, rounded on back (cupped by valve), lateral faces flattish or sometimes dimpled or collapsed

approaching hilum, minutely sculptured with cells polygonal in longitudinal rows, each cell with central papilla.

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