

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Allium canadense var. *canadense* – CANADA GARLIC [Alliaceae]

Allium canadense L. var. *canadense*, CANADA GARLIC. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-forming, clonal via bulbils in the inflorescence replacing flowers, fibrous-rooted, upright-rosetted, inflorescence to 65 cm tall; shoots with to 6+ basal leaves arising from bulb, leaves somewhat fleshy and onionlike when crushed; bulb ovoid, to 25 × 6–30 mm, white, with outer leaf sheath enclosing 1+ bulbs when dry brownish or grayish; adventitious roots many from base of bulb; lacking bulblets in and around mother bulb. **Stems** (scapes). **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple, sheath belowground (around bulb); sheath closed, to 120 mm above bulb, when fresh colorless and membranous, parallel-veined, with vertically elongate cells; blade (aboveground) linear to strap-shaped, to 480 × 3–12 mm above closed sheath, green and somewhat glaucous, flat to slightly curved upward, entire, acute to obtuse at tip, parallel-veined, smooth. **Inflorescence:** umbel-like, terminal on erect to ascending scape, when having to 60 flowers hemispheric, or with fewer flowers and asexual bulbils, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle (scape) suberect, cylindric, to 600 × 5.5 mm, green and somewhat glaucous, solid; bract subtending umbel closed round top of peduncle and sheathlike with 3 points, splitting downward into 3 segments to 40 mm long, membranous with ca. 15 parallel veins; bractlet subtending pedicel slender, membranous, and vestigial; pedicel ascending, straight, in range to 20 mm long, green often somewhat glaucous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 5 mm across; **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, whorls close, bases not overlapped, of outer whorl elliptic to elliptic-ovate or elliptic-obovate, 6.6–7.1 × 3.3–3.6 mm, white often with raised, greenish midvein, obtuse to rounded at tip; of inner whorl elliptic, 6.6–7.1 × 2.7–3.1 mm, white with midvein green only at base, rounded at tip; **stamens** 6, fused in short ring to bases of inner tepals; filaments broad at base gradually tapered to top, 3.5–4 mm long, white, flattened front-to-back, glabrous; anthers versatile, dithecal, ca. 1.2 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1, 5.6–6.2 mm long; ovary superior, cupcake-shaped and 3-lobed, ca. 2 × 3 mm, green, depressed in center at top, with **nectary patches** at base, 3-chambered; style cylindric, 4 × 0.4 mm, white, glabrous, with 3 minute, terminal stigmas. **Fruit:** usually not present but replaced by bulbils, bulbils 9+ per umbel mostly basal and densely clustered with several flower-bearing pedicels arising through the cluster, bulbil forming axillary to bractlet, ovoid to ellipsoid, initially 10–11 × 4–5 mm, glossy reddish, blunt acute at tip; bulbils sometimes sprouting with slender green leaf emerging from split bract, leaves to 70 × 1.5 mm, obtuse at tip.

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