

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Zephyranthes drummondii – GIANT RAIN-LILY, PRAIRIE RAIN-LILY, WIDE-LEAF RAIN-LILY, EVENING STAR RAIN-LILY [Amaryllidaceae]

Zephyranthes drummondii D. Don (syn. *Cooperia pedunculata*), GIANT RAIN-LILY, PRAIRIE RAIN-LILY, WIDE-LEAF RAIN-LILY, EVENING STAR RAIN-LILY. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, scapose with 1 ascending inflorescence, in range 16–45 cm tall (aboveground); shoots with only basal leaves from bulb, leaves commonly 5–6, present at anthesis, gray-green and glaucous, glabrous, not odorous when crushed; bulb to 12 cm deep, oblate spheroid, to 35 × 50 mm, covered with papery old leaf sheaths and above the bulb having a persistent, brown cylinder to ground level of old leaf tissue (neck of tunic), cylinder 8–10 mm diameter, mother bulb not forming an obvious clusters of bulblets; adventitious roots from base of bulb. **Stem (peduncle):** cylindrical, ca. 4 mm diameter, green from base upward, white belowground, hollow below flower node. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple and sheathing (including belowground portion); blade linear, in range 150+ × 7–8.3 mm, flat, entire, parallel-veined with many veins, midrib absent, glaucous. **Inflorescence:** flower solitary, terminal on peduncle (scape), in bud flower erect on short pedicel increasing in fruit, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle erect, cylindrical, to 380 mm long, hollow; bractlet subtending pedicel closed, cylindrical splitting from top to midpoint into 2 lobes, to 45 mm long, splitting also on 1 side of ovary but closed 10 mm, aging papery showing parallel veins; pedicel cylindrical, 5–11+ mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, to 45 mm across, to 85 mm long, sweetly fragrant; hypanthium above ovary cylindrical (= perianth tube), ca. 40 × 2.6–2.9 mm, green to midpoint of hypanthium becoming white where tepals attached, thick-walled (to 1 mm); **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, widely spreading, ± monomorphic, pure white aging with rose-purple, parallel-veined, of outer whorl ± elliptic, 38–45 × 16–17 mm, with short green to reddish point at tip, of inner whorl ovate, 39–45 × 20–24 mm, white at tip; **stamens** 6, attached at top of hypanthium and above bases of tepals at three different levels, included; filaments erect, unequal, free portion triangular (never slender), 0.5–3.5 mm long, white, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 7–8 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectary** on top of ovary; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, cylindrical, 3 mm diameter, green, glabrous, 3(–4)-chambered, each chamber with 12+ ovules in 2 vertical stacks; style included, to 2.5 × 0.7 mm (to about midpoint of hypanthium), white, flaring upward and unequally 3-lobed, each lobe with a terminal stigma. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3(–4) widely spreading valves (ca. 20 mm across), 35–50+-seeded, before dehiscent conspicuously 3(–4)-lobed, 12–15 × 16–17 mm, green at base and mostly purplish above, when dehiscent with horizontal valves ± 20 mm across displaying flattened seeds projecting upward in 2 rows per chamber; pedicel in fruit 5–18 mm long. **Seed:** flattened D-shaped, 4.5–6 × 3–4 × 1.5–2 mm, glossy black, faces rough.

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