

GAIRDNER'S YAMPAH



Scientific Name: *Perideridia gairdneri* subsp. *gairdneri*

Common Name: Gairdner's Yampah

Global Rarity: Vulnerable/Apparently Secure

State listing: Vulnerable/Apparently Secure; CNPS 4.2=Limited Distribution

UCSC Rarity: Rare

General Description

The Gairdner's Yampah is a perennial herb in the carrot family (Apiaceae). Preferring full sun, this subspecies of Gairdner's Yampah occupies habitats including upland forest, freshwater wetlands, chaparral, coastal prairie, and grasslands. The slender stem can reach a height of up to 1.5 meters. With a blooming period from June to October, Gairdner's Yampah has clusters of small, delicate white flowers arranged in compound umbels. Each plant has a single tuberous root below ground, which was/is an important food source for several Native American groups.



Identification

Flowers: White umbels 2.5 to 7cm wide in spherical clusters; 1 vein per petal; styles ~1-2.5 mm

Leaves: pinnate basal leaves, leaven on stem sometimes lobed or dissected into three leaflets, alternating up the stem

Fruits: 2.5-.53 mm; +/- round with thread-like ribs and one oil tube per rib interval

Geographic Range

P. gairdneri ranges through western North America. The *P. gairdneri* subsp. *gairdneri* is restricted to California. This subspecies remains relatively close to the coast because it prefers moist meadows in addition to upland forest and chaparral zones.





UCSC Distribution

Gairdner's Yampah inhabits coastal prairie in the Upper Campus, often co-mingling with Kellogg's Yampah (*P. kelloggii*).

Life history

The Gairdner's Yampah is inconspicuous during the early and mid-spring when many of its fellow coastal prairie wildflowers are showing off their colors. During this time its finely divided blue-green to yellow-green leaves lay low to the ground in a basal rosette. By the time it flowers, however, its white compound umbels rise high off the dry and yellowed prairie, where it stands as one of the few plants to be flowering during the parched summer season. The thin dry stalks often remain through the next spring. This species host anise swallowtail butterfly larvae.

Threats

Statewide:

The Gairdner's Yampah is threatened across the state by:

1. Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation from development, agriculture, and grazing.
2. Competition with non-native and invasive plants.
3. Prolonged drought

UCSC campus:

At UCSC, the Gairdner's Yampah is threatened by:

1. Succession of coastal prairie habitats into mixed evergreen forest
2. Competition from non-native and invasive plants

Conservation Status

Apparently Secure in California

Limited Distribution

The California Native Plant Society 4.2 (Limited Distribution) ranking placed *P. gairdneri* subsp. *gairdneri* on a Watch List. Though this plant isn't rare on a state-wide level at this point, they warrant close monitoring to determine the trajectory of their status.

Ways you can help

In your community:

1. Support the California Native Plant Society and volunteer with habitat restoration projects.
2. Don't hike or bike off-trail in fragile coastal prairie ecosystems.
3. Document the plants you encounter with the app iNaturalist.

References

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