



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
LARGE-FLOWERED FIDDLENECK
Amsinckia grandiflora



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered

Federal Register Notice 50:19374; May 8, 1985

http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr947.pdf (618 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:

The species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in April 1982. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: Designated

Federal Register Notice 50:19374; May 8, 1985

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RECOVERY PLAN: Large-flowered Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia grandiflora*) Recovery Plan. September 29, 1997.

http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/970929a.pdf (4.8 MB)



Large-Flowered Fiddleneck
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5-YEAR REVIEW: Completed February 4, 2009. Recommended no change.



Large-Flowered Fiddleneck
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DESCRIPTION:

Large-flowered fiddleneck is an annual herb in the borage (Boraginaceae) family. The erect plants grow 3-6 decimeters (1-2 feet) high. They branch at the middle or above. Coarse stiff hairs densely cover the leaves and stems.

Bright orange, trumpet-shaped flowers bloom in April and May. The 12-18 millimeter (0.5 to 0.75-inch) long fused petals are marked with deep orange spots on the corolla tips. Flowers grow in dense, two-ranked clusters along a curved stem or "fiddleneck," hence the generic vernacular name.

Little is known of the germination requirements for natural populations of *Amsinckia grandiflora*. It is likely similar to other members of the genus *Amsinckia* and other annual grassland forbs. Typically, many grassland forbs begin germination in the fall after adequate rainfall.

The plants grow slowly during winter, increase their growth during early spring, shortly thereafter mature, flower, set seed, and die by early summer. Although little information available, seed dormancy and multi-year seed carry-over in the soil is expected, based on histories of similar annual grassland forbs

Large-flowered fiddleneck can be separated from other species of *Amsinckia* by the following characteristics:

- Two- to four-lobed calyx (sepals)
- Green, hairy leaves and stems
- Smooth nutlets (seeds)
- Relatively large (0.5-2.2 inch) red-orange flowers

See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for a detailed description of the species.

DISTRIBUTION:

Historically, the species was reported from a few locations in the northern Diablo Range in California. Currently, it is only found in two reintroduced locations, one at Site 300 on the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in southwestern San Joaquin County and the second at Lougner Ridge in Contra Costa County.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Tracy (444B) 3712164, Lone Tree Creek (444C) 3712154, Midway (445A) 3712165, Antioch South (464A) 3712187, Clayton (464B) 3712188, Tassajara (464D) 3712177.

THREATS:

Large-flowered fiddleneck has been reduced by agriculture, development, and grazing, and is currently threatened by nonnative plants and possibly by altered fire frequency.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[General references about California plants](#)

www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

Ray, P.M., and H.F. Chisaki. 1957a. Studies on *Amsinckia*. I. A synopsis of the genus, with a study of heterostyly in it. *American Journal of Botany*. 44:524-536.

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