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common name	White Hyacinth
scientific name	<i>Triteleia hyacinthina</i>
family	Liliaceae (lily)
habitat	grassland
size	plant up to 15 inches tall, flower 1.4 to 2.5 cm across
fun facts	Flowers are generally beetle pollinated.

**description** Member of the lily family. Each flower has three petals and three sepals. But in *Triteleia* the sepals are colored like the petals so that the flower appears to have six petals and no sepals. The flowers are white with a green central vein.

You may recall that *Brodiaea* have three stamens and three stamenoides. *Dichelostemma* have three true stamens and three stamenoides which have reduced stamens at their tips. The *Triteleia* have six true stamens and no stamenoides.

**life cycle** White Hyacinth is a bulb producing perennial. Early in the season, the plants produce one or a few grass-like leaves. By the time the flowers are ready to bloom, the leaves have dried up and the flowers bloom in umbels (clusters) on a tall leafless stem. Only older plants with well developed bulbs have enough stored energy to produce flowers in April or May. It can take four years or more for *Triteleia* to bloom the first time.

**ecology** *Triteleia* bulbs are an important food source for burrowing rodents such as Botta's Pocket Gophers. The bulbs have a nutty flavor and Native Americans ate them as well.