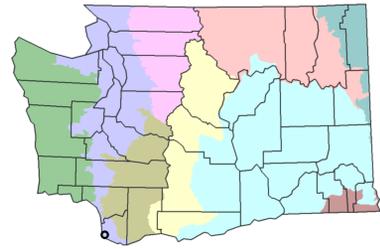


Geranium oreganum Howell
Oregon crane's-bill
Geraniaceae - geranium family
status: State Possibly Extirpated
rank: G4G5 / SX



General Description: Adapted from Jones & Jones (1943): Perennial plant, 40-80 cm tall, with a solitary erect stem from a simple woody base. Stem hairless to hairy and glandular. Basal leaf petioles 15-40 cm long, hairless or with hairs directed downwards. Basal leaf blades circular to pentagonal, 10-12 cm broad, with sparse hairs, especially near the veins, and palmately lobed with 5-7 irregularly toothed lobes divided nearly to the base. Stem leaves similar, blades triangular to lance-shaped, with 3-5 lobes, 5-10 mm long.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence a flat-topped cyme; flower stalks 1-15 cm long, covered with purple-tipped hairs. Sepals 5, oval, 7-11 mm long. Petals 5, deep rose to purple, 18-24 mm long, egg-shaped, attached at the narrow end, and hairless, except for marginal cilia extending for 3-5 mm from the base. Stamens 10, filaments also ciliate at the base. Mature styler column 3-5 cm long, with dense glandular hairs; beak 5-7 mm long. Stigmas 2-2.5 mm long. Flowers May to July.

Fruits: Capsules 6-8 mm long, hairy, especially at the base and the keel where the hairs are 1-1.5 mm long.

Identification Tips: Distinguished by the marginal hairs at the base of the petals and large flower size. It is closely related to *G. viscosissimum*; however, *G. viscosissimum* occurs mostly east of the Cascades, whereas *G. oreganum* occurs west of the Cascades. It may occur with *G. molle*, which is an annual with smaller petals (less than 7 mm long). Also, the basal leaves of *G. molle* are smaller (2-5 cm broad), kidney-shaped, and not as deeply incised as those of *G. oreganum*.

Range: Alberta, MT, B.C., south to southwestern WA, OR, and CA.

Habitat/Ecology: Woods, thickets, and meadows. In OR it is strongly associated with Willamette Valley prairie and remnant oak woodlands.

Comments: Known from 1 historical occurrence; not seen in WA since 1936. Most of the potential habitat for this species in WA has been converted to agriculture or residential development.

References: Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 3; Jones & Jones 1943.

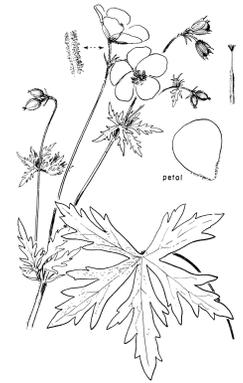


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