



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Bitter root
Scientific Name: *Lewisia rediviva*
Plant Family: Portulacaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: Low, little plant, less than 31 cm (1 ft) tall.

Leaves: The many succulent, linear leaves form a rosette and usually wither by flowering time.

Flowers: Flowers range from white to pink with 10-19 petals. Flowers are up to 4 cm (2 in) across and they close at night and reopen with the morning sun.

Habitat: The plant grows in open woodlands and sagebrush shrublands with pine, oak or juniper in many soil types such as shale, sand, clay, granite, serpentine, or talus (loose rocks).

Bloom time: Early spring (March-June), depending on location.

Information sources:

USDA Plants Database (plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=LERE7)
Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center Database
(wildflower.utexas.edu/plants/result.php?id_plant=LERE7)

Did you know? The roots were harvested with a digging stick and eaten traditionally by many Native American groups. Families in some cultural groups still gather the roots today. The roots are prepared for eating by removing the bark and boiling, steaming, or pit-roasting them and they are eaten fresh or dried. Also, the gray-crowned rosy finch feeds on the seeds. It was first collected by Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition, who is honored by the genus name.



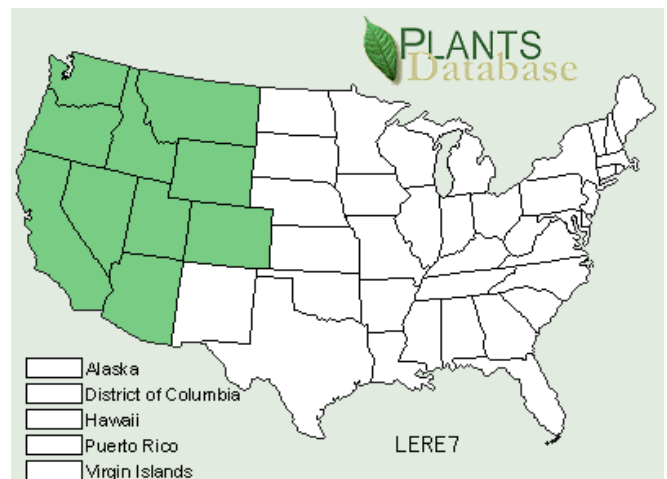
Photograph by Brother Alfred Brousseau
@ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Photograph by Gary A. Monroe @ USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database

Phenological observation:
First Flower

Distribution Area:



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)