

***Amsonia peeblesii* R.E. Woodson**
Peebles Blue Star

Family: Apocynaceae

Synonyms: None

NESL Status: G4

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Herbaceous perennial, glabrous, 40 – 90 cm tall; lower leaves oblong-linear, 4 – 9 mm wide; upper leaves linear, 1 – 2 mm wide. Corolla trumpet shaped, white or light blue, the tube 13 – 19 mm long, the lobes 5 – 10 mm long; follicles 2 – 10 cm long; seeds cylindrical, corky, 8 – 11 mm long, 1.5 – 2.5 mm broad. Flowering period is from mid May to mid June.

Similar Species: *A. peeblesii* can be confused with the glabrous form of *A. tomentosa* var. *stenophylla*. The former possesses much larger flowers than the latter (13 – 19 mm long vs. 7 – 12 mm long) and the follicles of *A. peeblesii* are smoothly cylindrical while follicles of *A. tomentosa* var. *stenophylla* are moderately constricted between the seeds.

Habitat: Plains Grassland, Great Basin Shrub-Grassland, and Great Basin Desertscrub communities. Substrate types range from strongly alkaline sedimentary conglomerates to volcanic cinders. Elevation ranges from 4000 to 5620 ft.

General Distribution: Coconino, Navajo, and Apache counties, AZ.

Known Distribution on the Navajo Nation: Coconino County, Grand Falls to Gray Mountain and north to Cedar Ridge, west of HWY 89 between Cameron and Cedar Ridge.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: Marble Canyon south to the boundary near Gray Mountain, east to the Holbrook vicinity.

Survey Period: Best during the flowering and fruiting period from mid May through mid July. Plants can be located later during the growing season, but positive identification might not be possible.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less, depending on size and nature of the project

References:

- Arizona Rare Plant Committee. 2001. Arizona rare plant field guide: a collaboration of agencies and organizations. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://aznps.org/rareplants.html>
- Reichenbacher, F.R. 1986. Status report, *Amsonia peeblesii* R.E. Woodson. F.W. Reichenbacher & Associates. 2739 North La Cienega Drive, Tucson, AZ. Prepared for the USFWS, Albuquerque, NM.
- Kearney, T. H., R. H. Peebles, and collaborators. 1960. Arizona Flora. Second edition with supplement by J. T. Howell, E. McClintock, and collaborators. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1085 pp.



Amsonia peeblesii

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Amsonia peeblesii habitat

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