

# *Claytonia parviflora*

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## *Claytonia* - where is it?

- Fewer than 50 species; 30 occur in North America
- Most are native to the temperate part of the Northern Hemisphere
- In the U.S. *C. parviflora* appears in CA, AZ, ID, MT, OR, WA, UT, NV, and also appears in Mexico.

# History

*Claytonia* was eaten by California gold miners as a salad green in the gold rush of 1949.

Many of the *Claytonia* species were formerly treated as members of the *Montia* genus. Both *Montia* and *Claytonia* are under the family Montiaceae.

Common names: Streambank springbeauty, miner's lettuce.

## *Claytonia parviflora* - growth

- Clumping habit
- Wildflower / herb usage
- Spreads to about 1 ft
- Leaves: Basal are long and lance shaped on tapered petioles. Leaves on stem are either tapered like basal leaves, rounded, squared, and sometimes fuse together to make a bowl around the stem.
- Inflorescence is a cluster of up to 40 flowers, white to pink in color.

# Subspecies

*C. parviflora*  
ssp.  
*grandiflora*

Large-  
Flowered  
Indian  
Lettuce

Native to:  
Sierra  
Nevada  
foothills and



## Subspecies (continued)

*C. parviflora*  
*ssp. viridis*

Davidson's  
Indian  
Lettuce

Decomposed  
granite or  
sandstone  
in AZ, CA,  
NV, and  
Mexico.



## Subspecies (continued)

*C. parviflora*  
*ssp.*  
*parviflora*

Miner's Lettuce

Found on  
highway  
margins,  
waste  
ground, and  
heavily  
grazed land



## Subspecies (continued)

*C. parviflora*

*ssp.*

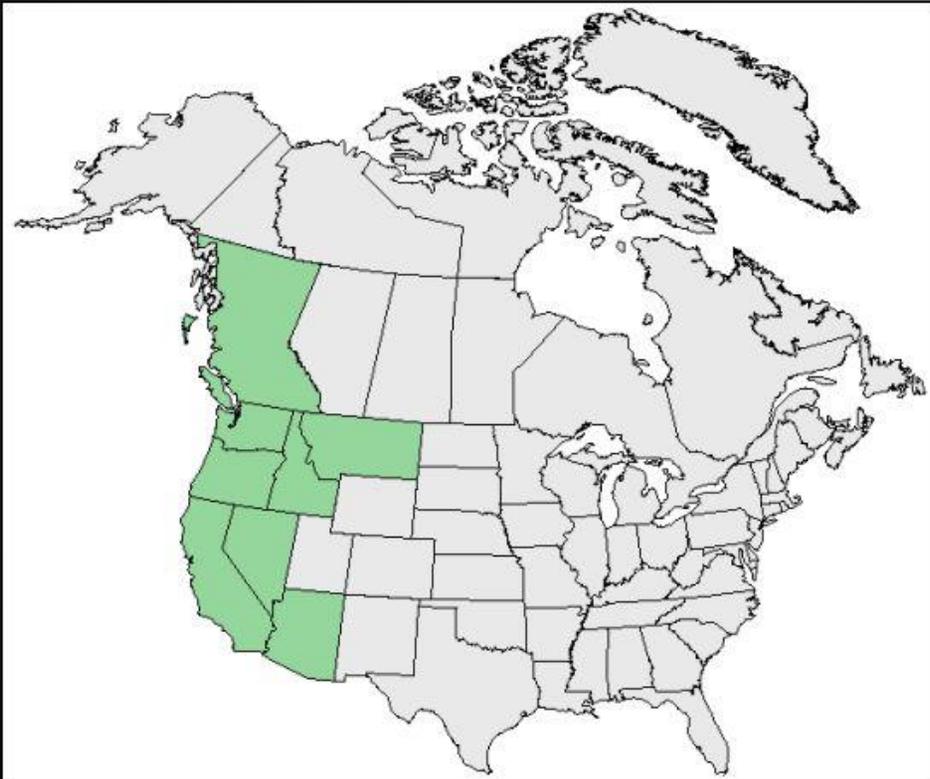
*utahensis*

Mojave Indian  
Lettuce

Found in rock  
crevices,  
moist  
alluvial fans  
in AZ, CA,  
NV, UT,



# The Experiment



Geography ranges greatly up and down the W coast.

Hypothesis: The germination of *C. parviflora* seeds will differ based on hydration and temperature, depending on which subspecies it

# Methods

Treatments (all are planted 3 seeds per plug in size 50 plugs)

Control: After planting, was placed in the mist house.

Cold/wet: After planting, was placed in the teaching cooler to simulate the cool wet climate of the Sierra Nevada mountain valleys.

Hot/dry: After planting, was placed in E5 with a clear cover over it to simulate the climate of the deserts of Mexico and Arizona.

# Crop Schedule

Below is my recommended crop schedule for growers, if the subspecies ends up being grandiflora, parviflora, or utahensis.

Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 19
Plant in moist soil in a size 50 plug tray. Place a tray with no holes under the plug tray. Put under a cold treatment.	Remove from cold treatment, place in mist house.	Monitor until germination occurs. When there are true leaves present, remove from mist and transplant into 4" pots.	Target date.

# Crop Schedule

Below is my recommended crop schedule for growers, if the subspecies ends up being viridis.

Week 9	Week ?	Week 19
Plant in a size 50 plug tray. Place a clear cover over the top. Put directly in greenhouse.	Once germinated, transplant plugs into a soil mix with high drainage qualities.	Target date.

## Potential as a domesticated crop

This crop would do best in Minnesota as an addition to an edible herb garden.

However, if it were marketed to consumers in warmer western climates, gardeners could use it in landscape restoration or wildflower gardens.

Any questions??