

Indian potato



Scientific name: ***Orogenia linearifolia* S. Watson**

Common names: Indian potato, Turkey-peas, Great Basin Indian potato

You have to be out roaming the hills early in the spring to find the Indian potato. This plant flowers next to receding snowbanks on open slopes and ridges in the foothills and mountains from March to May. The small white flowers form a cluster at the top of the flowering stem. The leaves wither away within a few weeks of flowering and the plant can no longer be detected above ground.

As the common name implies, the small (about 1.5 cm thick), round root of this plant is edible and is said to taste much like a potato when eaten raw or cooked. The scientific name of this plant *Orogenia linearifolia* is Greek in origin; 'oros' meaning mountain, and 'genia' meaning born. Linearifolia refers to the linear shaped leaves, which sometimes resemble a turkey foot.

