Wild Hyacinth
*(Triteleia laxa)*

*Triteleia laxa*, also known as Ithuriel's spear or wild hyacinth, or sometimes starflower.

This delightful WaterWise bulb is an Oregon native. Are you surprised? It occurs naturally in southwestern Oregon and throughout much of California. Not quite so surprising is that this little bright-blue flowered bulb does exceptionally well in our gardens. Be aware that wild plants of *T. laxa* are a protected species in Oregon because of its scarcity here. It is, however, widely available as a commercial bulb, mostly with blue flowers, but sometimes with white or deep purple ones. Cultivars, such as ‘Humbolt star’ and ‘Queen Fabiola’ are available and worth checking out.

The plant has tall stalks, topped by clusters of flowers, blooming in mid-spring. Each flower looked like a six pointed star. The “bulb” is botanically a corm, a short underground swollen stem. These corms were reportedly used as food by native peoples and eaten like potatoes. Although I have not personally seen these for sale in Yamhill County, don’t give up—they may also go by the name *Brodiaea laxa*. Check out nearby native plant nurseries, check suppliers in the larger metropolitan areas, or go online to find sources for this hardy bulb.