



KEY  
CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Annuals or short-lived perennials; root crowns thickened with many fibrous roots and  $\pm$  tuber-like stem bases.

flower

Simple racemes to open panicles with ascending branches; bracts white, 4–7 mm. Flowering late winter-spring.

Diurnal, closing in evening and during cloudy weather; tepals white to pale pink, oblong, obtuse, 5–12  $\times$  2–3 mm, vein dark pink or brown; stamen of two lengths, the longest stamens equaling style.

stems

Branched or unbranched, 15–70 cm.

leaves

Leaves many, up to 35 cm long, mostly basal, blade cylindrical or slightly flattened adaxially, hollow, bases wide, hairless except on margins.

fruit

Capsules 5–7 mm, transversely wrinkled, +/- round. Seeds 3–4 mm, wrinkled.



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Elevation:  
0-4590 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:  
Desertscrub.

## ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

*A. fistulosus* commonly occurs along roadsides, fields, waste places, landscaped sites, and agronomic crops. It grows best in areas with light, sandy soil that receive ample sunlight but is not limited to those conditions. In Arizona, it is tolerant of relatively dry conditions but seems to do best in areas above the desert that receive moderate winter rainfall.

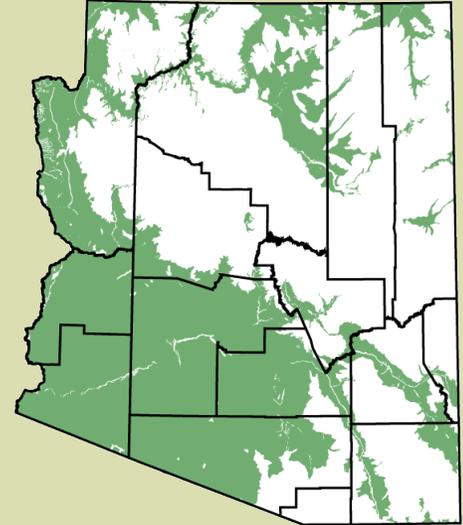
It is predominately found in disturbed areas and establishes best under those conditions, but has begun to encroach upon natural areas and plants can become very competitive once established. *A. fistulosus* grows thickly, crowding out native vegetation, particularly grasses. It is unpalatable to livestock which further aids in allowing onion weed to form dense, persistent populations.

*A. fistulosus* has become a noxious weed in California and in other places with

Mediterranean climates worldwide. Known in California, N Mexico, Texas, SW Europe, SW Asia and N Africa. It is widely naturalized in Australia, Mexico, and New Zealand and is expected elsewhere. In Arizona, onion weed has been located in Cochise, Maricopa, Pima, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai counties.



## SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.