

# Three-cornered leek

(*Allium triquetrum*)



**Habitat:** Terrestrial, prefers damp shaded areas

**Family name:** Amaryllidaceae

**Common name:** Snow Bell, Three-cornered leek



Three-cornered leek meadow

**Description:** Three-cornered leek is a very invasive plant due to seeds which germinate easily creating dense clumps of leaves and flowers. Native of the Mediterranean, preferring shady areas, but is tolerant of most conditions.



Three-cornered leek leaves

As with all Alliums it forms a bulb as an underground storage unit when the leaves die away. The white bulbs reproduce vegetatively by dividing.



Three-cornered leek petals

Flowers appear from April to June and hang in clusters similar to bluebells with six petals and flowers from April to June.



Three-cornered leek flowers

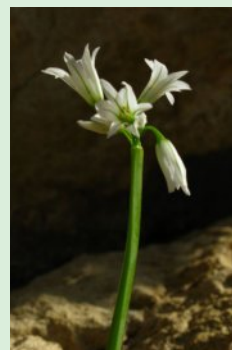
Flowers are 2cm long bell-like white 10-18mm long on stems which are three-sided and about 30cm high.

Each petal has a thin green line

along the centre between 3 and 15 flowers are arranged in a drooping one-sided umbel

similar looking to a Bluebell.

Young plants resemble spring onions or baby leeks, when more mature the root can resemble an onion.



Three-cornered leek



Three-cornered leek stem head

The leaves are mid-green and hairless with a keel running up one side to

Reproduces by seed and vegetatively by its long-lived bulbs.

The small bulbs are 5-20 mm across, egg-shaped (*ovoid*) and white in colour with the outer layers consisting of swollen bases of the leaf sheaths.

Numerous smaller bulbs are produced from the base each year. The bulbs are spread when soil is moved or cultivated. Seeds can be dispersed by ants, water and contaminated soil.



Three-cornered leek bulbs

The stem is similar to the leaves with a more triangular cross section profile than the leaves, giving rise to the common name, Three Cornered Leek.



Three-cornered leek triangular stem

The leaves are alternately arranged, but clustered towards the base of the stems. They are light green in colour with sheaths that enclose the lower part of the stems. Leaves are 12-50 cm long, 3-20 mm wide, soft, slightly fleshy,

and often drooping. They are strap-like (*linear*) and have a prominent mid-rib on the underside which make them more rigid.

Leaf margins are hairless (*glabrous*).



Three-cornered leek seed