



Chemeketa Kalapuyans & Camas

DAVID G. LEWIS PHD

(CTGR) SANTIAM, CHINOOK, TAKELMA

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ANTHROPOLOGY
AND ETHNIC STUDIES, OSU

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Divisions of time noticed
among the Tualatin tribe of the Kalapuya Indians, of
Northwestern Oregon.

Their lunations (atob) begin with the new moon (wapal atob)
The first quarter of the m. is: yédok tokeloi atob; the full m. koplofu
atob; the third quarter: tokashlu atob. The year, amidsthe, begins in autumn.

The earlier Kalapuyas did not notice the summer months and
hence had only six months in the year, but presently they have twelve.
1st month: atchi'utchiutén; after harvest the Indians are still out.

2^d month: atchalankuak; commencing to get the sagittaria-
root from the lake (mámpu); Gaston Lake, Or.

3^d month: alángitapi; they go into the houses for winter season.

4th month: adshámpak "good (month)"; not bad weather.

5th mo. átalka (atob); they stay all day in the winter houses.

6th mo. atchiulantash "out of provisions"; some hunt, some starve.

7th mo. atchá'uyu: first spring; women dry camass-root.

8th mo. amánta kitántal: pounding the (cooked) camass.

9th mo. atántal: about May camass begins to blossom.

10th mo. anishnalyu: camass now ripe

11th mo. améku, or wayoyu améku: mid of summer

12th mo. atúpiu end of summer, August.

Annual Calendar of the Tualatin Kalapuya: Seasonal Round

Rich and Fertile area lands of the Kalapuyans

In many wetlands was wapato (m'amptu) "Indian Potato". The time for gathering wapato is immortalized in their annual calendar

Camas, Lakamas, anti'p, was another major crop, dug, gathered, and cooked, in root digging camps.

And at Champoeg, Yampah root was dug, the word Champoeg means Place of the Yampah root. Po-wet-sie (Lyman 1900). Zenk (2006) notes the name Champuik.

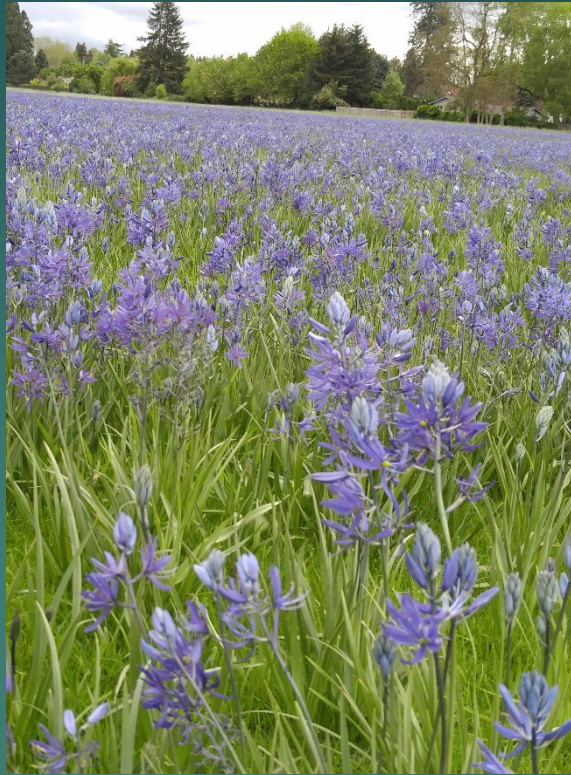


Chemeketa- Salem

noted by Kalapuyans
as a Place of Camas



Bush Park and the
State Fairgrounds may
have the original
traditional camas
fields still growing



Bush Park- Oak
savannah with
camas



Tualatin Kalapuya Oral History of Anti'p (Camas)

Dinid'p –Their Camas

- ▶ Long Ago the people after they had dug a hole (for acorns), then they would build a fire right here (in the hole). Now they would put a lot of stones (on top of the fire). Then when the rocks get hot, then they would say to a shaman, “look at the rocks now! Is it all right for us to put our camas on them?” Now then the shaman would step (barefooted) on the hot rocks, he would cross over on them, he would look at his feet, and he would say, “oh pretty soon the camas will be good (well cooked).” So then they placed all their camas (in it) there. They always put large quantities of maple and ash leaves, they put them in first. Now then they put the camas...now they cover it with earth.
- ▶ Camas ovens are found all over the Willamette Valley as old as 7,000 years

A photograph of an Oak Savanna landscape. The foreground is a lush green field filled with numerous small, vibrant purple camas flowers. Several large, mature oak trees with thick, textured trunks are scattered throughout the field. In the background, a wooden fence runs across the middle ground, and more trees are visible under a bright, slightly overcast sky.

Oak Savanna and Camas fields are a common co-occurrence in the Valley

Anti'p tepok- Camas flower

Anti'p (Camas) is an early season (starvation) crop harvested before the plant blooms, then it is harvested again mid summer after the seed pods are dried. Oak Savanna & Camas fields are common comingled. Camas and acorns were gathered throughout the valley. With oaks more prominent in some prairies and camas more prominent in wet prairies.

Summer 2022, Juncas and Camas at Farm field- Minto –Brown Island



Early May, dry field



Mid-May seasonal wetland develops



A week later, Seasonal Wetland is gone
Camas remains unaffected









June, Wetland returns



Giant Camas (Anti'p) is
blooming later and lasts into the
mid summer



Late June- Giant Camas still tops the field



Camas in seed, Late May to July with *Camassia leichtlinii*- Giant Camas the last to mature

Harvest schedule

April- dug as starvation food
(Tualatin Calendar)

June-July Dug after going to
seed (Tualatin Calendar)

September- dug while
collecting acorns and
cooked in same pit (Tualatin
Oral History)



Spring-Summer-Fall Seasons Based on
Native perceptions of their resources

Eating preserved, smoked and dried harvest

Wapato and
Hazelnut camps

Plankhouse
season

Starvation time-
Camas digging

Acorn and
Camas
camps

Camp
seasons
lasting
weeks at a
time

Camas
Flowering
season

Tarweed season &
Prairie fires

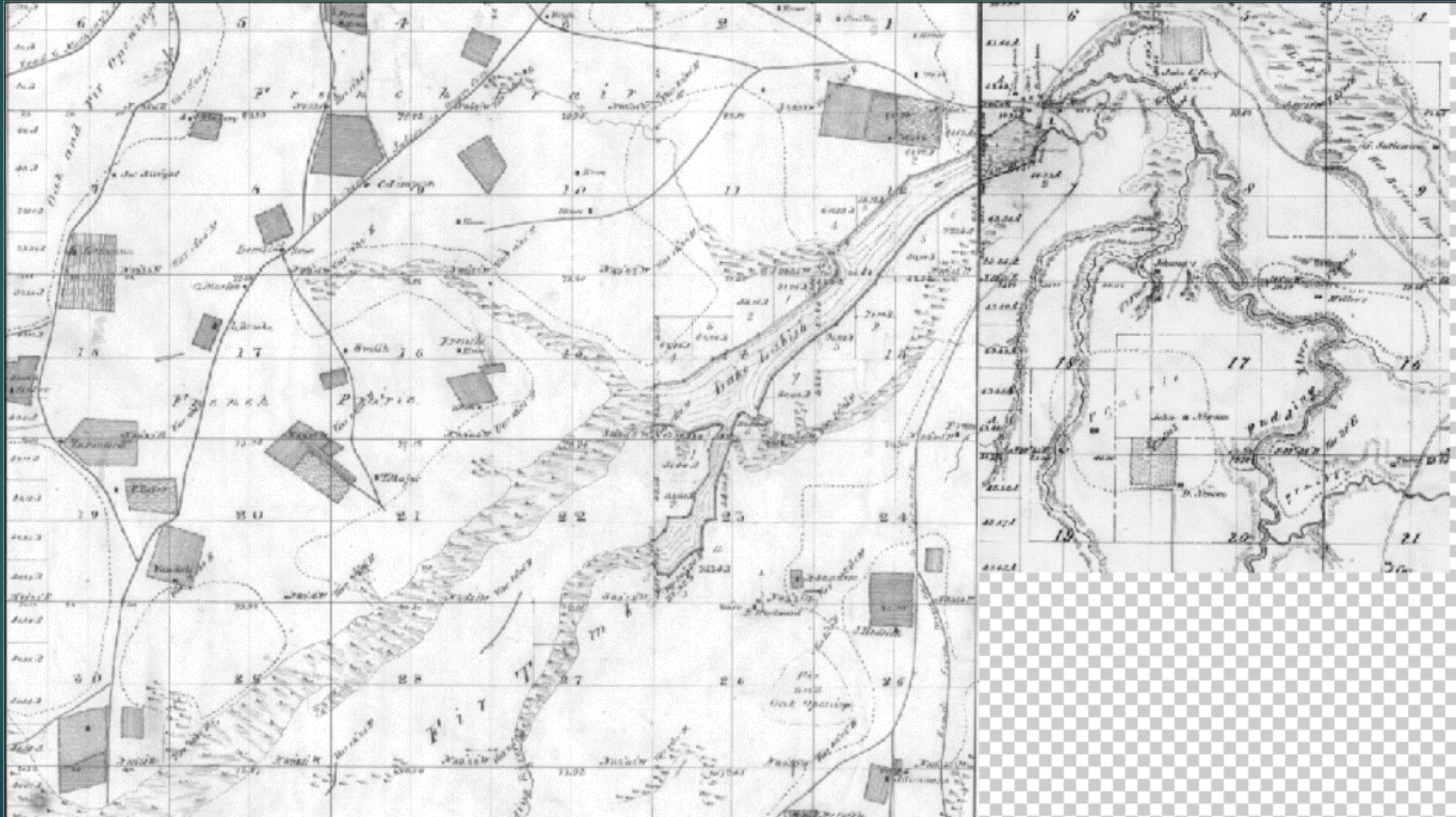
Berry
Harvest
season

Camas root
digging and
cooking

Extra harvest
would be traded or
stored

Hunting and
fishing, shellfish
gather, may
happen anytime

Lake Labish- French- La Biche-deer, a traditional lake for the Kalapuyans north of Salem drained in the early 20th century



Lake Labish wapato



Wapato



Qa'pai

David G. Lewis, PhD

Assistant Professor, OSU

Santiam, Takelma, Chinook, CTGR

