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Ageratum houstonianum

[Synonyms : *Ageratum caeruleum*, *Ageratum mexicanum*, *Ageratum wendlandii*, *Alomia pinetorum*, *Carelia houstoniana*]

FOSSFLOWER is an annual. Native to Middle America and Mexico it has small scented, blue flowers.

It is also known as *Agera* (Finnish), *Ageratum* (English, Swedish), Bastard agrimony, Blue billygoat-weed, Blue mink, Garden ageratum, *Leverbalsam* (Swedish), Mexican paintbrush, *Nestařec americký* (Czech), *Nestařec mexický* (Czech), *Sinitähtönen* (Finnish), and *Tuin ageratum* (Afrikaans).

The flowers are pollinated by moths and butterflies.

Houstonianum commemorates a Scottish surgeon and botanist, William Houstoun (1695-1733). He collected plants in Middle America and the West Indies in the early 18th Century, and was elected as a Fellow of The Royal Society on 18th January 1733.

Flossflower is cultivated widely as an ornamental plant.