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Amorpha fruticosa

[Synonyms : *Amorpha angustifolia*, *Amorpha arizonica*, *Amorpha bushii*, *Amorpha croceolanata*, *Amorpha curtissii*, *Amorpha dewinkeleri*, *Amorpha emarginata*, *Amorpha fragrans*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *angustifolia*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *caroliniana*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *coerulea*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *crispa*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *croceolanata*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *emarginata*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *humilis*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *lewisii*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *oblongifolia*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *occidentalis*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *pendula*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *tennesseensis*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *typica*, *Amorpha fruticosa* var. *vulgaris*, *Amorpha humilis*, *Amorpha occidentalis*, *Amorpha occidentalis* var. *arizonica*, *Amorpha occidentalis* var. *emarginata*, *Amorpha pendula*, *Amorpha tenesseeensis*, *Amorpha virgata*]

BASTARD INDIGO is a deciduous shrub. Native to south-eastern North America it has small vanilla-scented, purple flowers with one petal wrapped around orange stamens.

It is also known as *Bleibusch* (German), Desert false indigo, Desert indigobush, Dullleaf indigo, False indigo, False indigobush, *Gewöhnlicher Bastardindigo* (German), Indigo bush, Indigobush amorpha, *Khawdl-pá* (Kiowa North American Indian), *Kitsu hast* (Pawnee North American Indian), Lead plant, *Netvařec křovitý* (Czech), Plume-locust, River forest, River locust, *Scheinindigo* (German), *Segelbuske* (Swedish), *Sulkapensas* (Finnish), and Water string.

Fruticosa is Latin (bushy, become bushy).

Bastard indigo was familiar to local North American Indian tribes. For example the Pawnee (if it was to hand when any meat was being cut up) spread plants on the ground and placed the meat joints on them to keep them clean and fresh. The Kiowa are believed to have used the stems as a bedding foundation, and the Dakota tribe used the stems to make arrows.

The tiny oblong fruit pods crushed are used as a condiment or spice.

The shrubs (they can range in height from 3 to 17 feet) have not only been cultivated as a windbreak but also to counter soil erosion.