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Amsonia tabernaemontana

[Synonyms : *Amsonia glaberrima*, *Amsonia latifolia*, *Amsonia tabernaemontana* var. *tabernaemontana*, *Amsonia tristis*, *Ansonia latifolia*, *Tabernaemontana amsonia*, *Tabernaemontana humilis*, *Tabernaemontana latifolia*]

EASTERN BLUESTAR is a perennial. Native to south-eastern North America it has small, pale purplish-blue flowers and leaves that can turn gold in Autumn.

It is also known as Blue dogbane, Blue Star, Bluestar flower, and Willow amsonia.

The flowers are pollinated by various butterflies.

Warning – some authorities claim that eastern bluestar is poisonous for dogs.

Tabernaemontana commemorates a German physician, botanist and linguist, Jakob Theodore von Bergzabern (1520-1590), who latinized his name to Jacobus Theodorus Tabernaemontanus by which he appears to be more readily known today. In accordance with common practice at that period he was court physician to several German noblemen including the Count of the Palatine at Heidelberg – and his botanical interests appear to have been directed especially towards medicinal plants and some tropical ones. Some authorities describe him as the 'father of German botany'. Among his respected works authorities draw particular attention to *Neu vollkommen Kraeuterbuch* and *Eicones Plantarum*.

Eastern bluestar is popular for cultivation as an ornamental plant.