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Anemone virginiana

VIRGINIA ANEMONE is a perennial. Native to central and eastern North America it has green-tinged, white flowers with many stamens.

It is also known as Summer anemone, Tall anemone, Tall thimbleweed, Thimble anemone, Thimbleweed, Windflower, and Woodland thimbleweed.

The flowers are pollinated by bumble bees, other bees including the honey bee, and a particular kind of fly.

Virginiana means 'of or from Virginia (United States)' which itself was named after the English 'Virgin Queen' Elizabeth I (1533-1603).

The North American Iroquois Indians relied on Virginia anemone as an ingredient in a potion that was taken to counter bewitchment (it caused vomiting). It was also believed that if a man in the tribe slept with a piece of root under his pillow his wife's vices could be revealed to him in his dreams. Apart from this the Iroquois took the root (or roots and stem) as an aphrodisiac.

Virginia anemone was believed to have various medicinal attributes. The Meskwaki smoked the seeds to ease catarrh. The Cherokee prescribed a root infusion as a remedy for whooping cough. A root poultice was applied to boils by the the Menominee, and the Iroquois used a root decoction not only to cause vomiting and treat tuberculosis but also to ease diarrhoea.

Medicinally local herbalists wafted smoke from the burning seed over patients suffering from faintness, nausea or catarrh and applied a root poultice to boils.