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*Artemisia dracunculoides*

[Synonyms : *Artemisia dracunculus* subsp. *dracunculoides*, *Artemisia glauca* var. *dracunculoides*, *Artemisia tripartita*, *Artemisia wrightii*]

**RUSSIAN TARRAGON** is a perennial. Found in Asia, Europe and North America it has greyish-white flowers.

It is also known as False dragon, Fuzzy-weed, *Kihapiliwus* (Pawnee North American Indian), *Rake-hi shek* (Winnebago North American Indian), *Thasata-hi* (Omaha and Ponca North American Indian), *Toshoehachikia* (Zuni North American Indian), and Wormwood.

Russian tarragon is more vigorous in growth than tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*) and has a coarser flavour.

*Dracunculoides* is made up of the species name *dracunculus* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning 'like tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*)'.

The North American Hopi Indians of Arizona harvested young Spring leaves which were eaten when they had been baked and dipped in salted water. While to the north-east the Zuni on the central plains prepared steamed balls of ground seed (mixed with water) a dish upon which they said they had had to rely several hundred years ago.

Both the Winnebago and Omaha tribes believed that Russian tarragon acted as a love charm. As a medicine the Zuni are said to have used the seeds in remedies for heavy colds, the Winnebago used the plant for easing fevers, and the Pawnee turned to them for treating rheumatism.