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### *Carduus nutans*

[Synonyms : *Carduus armenus*, *Carduus coloratus*, *Carduus macrocephalus*, *Carduus macrolepis*, *Carduus nutans* var. *armenus*, *Carduus nutans* var. *leiophyllus*, *Carduus nutans* var. *macrocephalus*, *Carduus nutans* subsp. *macrolepis*, *Carduus nutans* var. *songaricus*, *Carduus nutans* var. *vestitus*, *Carduus sehischkinii*, *Carduus songaricus*, *Carduus thoermeri*]

**MUSK THISTLE** is a biennial or perennial. Native to Asia and Europe it has thistle-like heads of faintly musk-smelling, crimson-purple flowers.

It is also known as *Badaward* (Punjabi), *Bodlák nicí* (Czech), *Bodliak ovisnutý* (Slovak), Bristle thistle, Buck thistle, *Chardon penché* (French), *Gulibadaward* (Kashmiri), *Nickende Distel* (German), *Nicktistel* (Swedish), Nodding plumeless thistle, Nodding thistle, Queen Anne's thrissel, Scotch thistle, Teaser, Thistle, and *Ysgallen Ogwydd* (Welsh).

*Nutans* is derived from Latin *nuto* (to nod) meaning 'nodding'.

In some countries the flower heads have been used to curdle milk, and the thick pith has been eaten after it has been boiled and dressed.

Musk thistle has long provided valuable camel fodder too.

The down has been used to make paper.

Medicinally, the flowers have been used in India to treat fever and as a blood purifier.