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Castilleja coccinea

[Synonyms : *Bartsia coccinea*, *Castilleia coccinea*, *Castilleja ludoviciana*]

INDIAN PAINTBRUSH is a semi-parasitic annual or biennial. Native to eastern North America it has greenish-yellow flowers dominated by scarlet-tipped, petal-like leaves (bracts).

It is also known as Bloody noses, Bloody warrior, Eastern paintbrush, Election posies, Fire pink, Honeysuckle, Indian blanket, Indian pink, Nosebleed, Paintbrush, Painted cup, Prairie fire, Red Indians, Scarlet Indian paintbrush, Scarlet paintbrush, Scarlet painted cup, Wickackee, and Wickawee.

Coccinea means 'scarlet'.

The Menominee North American Indians respected Indian paintbrush as a love charm. For this to be effective part of the plant had to be placed upon the person so admired without their knowledge.

According to records Indian paintbrush served a far more sinister purpose for the Cherokee tribe as they are said to have used an infusion of the plant to kill their enemies.

In a far more benign vein the Chippewa used a flower decoction to treat paralysis, and a flower infusion was taken for colds.