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Centaurea nigra

[Synonyms : *Centaurea dedeauxii* subsp. *nemoralis*, *Centaurea nemoralis*, *Centaurea nigra* subsp. *nemoralis*, *Centaurea nigra* var. *radiata*, *Centaurea obscura*, *Jacea nigra*]

COMMON KNAPWEED is a perennial. Native to Europe it has thistle-like heads of purplish (rarely white) flowers that are black fringed beneath.

It is also known as Bachelor's buttons, Bell weed, Black knapweed, Black ray thistle, Black soap, Bluebottle, Blue Jack, Blue tops, Bobby's buttons, Bottle-weed, *Bourdonniéthe* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Bowl weed, Brown knapweed, Brushes, Bullheads, Bull thistle, Bull-weed, Bullyheads, Bunds, Bundweed, Buttonweed, Chimneysweep, Chimneysweep's brushes, *Chrupa černá* (Czech), *Chrpina černá* (Czech), Clobweed, Clubweed, Clover knob, Cockhead, Crop weed, Dromedary, Drummerboys, Drummerheads, Drumsticks, Gnat flower, Hackymore, Hairy head, Hardhack, Hardheads, Hardine, Hardiron, Hard weed, Harryhead, *Herbe de flon* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Horse button, Horse-hardhead, Horse knap, Horse knobs, Horse knops, Horse-knot, Horse-nobs, Hurt-sickle, Iron hard, Iron head, Iron knobs, Ironweed, Knapweed, Knit weed, Knobweed, Knopweed, Knot-grass, Lady's balls, Lady's cushion, Lesser knapweed, Loggerheads, Loggerums, Matfellow, Matt fellow, *Nevädza* (Slovak), Niggerheads, Nob weed, Paintbrushes, *Pengaled* (Welsh), *Schwarze Flockenblume* (German), Shaving brush, Spanish buttons, Star thistle, *Svartklint* (Swedish), Sweeps, Tarbottle, Tassel, and Topknot.

Nigra means 'black'.

In the 16th Century common knapweed was used as a love oracle in Britain.

Medicinally, it was recommended by herbalists as a remedy for sore throats, wounds and bruises, and was used to stem oral and nasal bleeding.