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Claytonia sibirica

[Synonyms : *Claytonia alsinoides*, *Limnia sibirica*, *Montia sibirica*, *Montia washingtoniana*]

PINK PURSLANE is an evergreen annual or perennial. Native to western North America and northern Asia, it has small pink flowers.

It is also known as *Alaskankleitonia* (Finnish), Candy flower, Chinese chickweed, *Claytone de Sibérie* (French), Miner's lettuce, Siberian lettuce, Siberian miner's lettuce, Siberian purslane, Siberian springbeauty, *Sibirische Claytonie* (German), *Sibirisk Vinterportulak* (Danish), *Sibirportulakk* (Norwegian), Spring beauty, and *Vårsköna* (Swedish).

The flowers are pollinated by bees and flies.

Sibirica means 'of or from Siberia'.

Authorities have noted that the North American Yurok Indians ate the tops of shoots raw.

A stem infusion was used as a hair wash by the Skokomish, Cowlitz, Quileute and Snohomish Indian tribes.

There are records of its medicinal use by several North American Indian tribes. The Skagit Indians took a plant infusion to ease sore throats, while the Quileute applied stem juice to the eyes and recommended a leaf decoction be drunk as a tea for treating fluid retention.

Women of the Quinault tribe chewed the plant when they were pregnant, and in the Tlingit tribe leaf poultices were applied to treat some venereal diseases.

Today the leaves and stems are eaten as a vegetable both raw in salads and cooked.

Pink purslane has been cultivated for ground cover.