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*Desmanthus illinoensis*

[Synonyms : *Acuan illinoensis*, *Desmanthus brachylobus*, *Mimosa illinoensis*]

**PRAIRIE MIMOSA** is a perennial. Native to south-eastern North America it has tiny, whitish or greenish flowers with projecting stamens.

It is also known as Illinois bundleflower, Prairie bundleflower, Prairie desmanthus, Prickleweed, and Prickly weed.

*Illinoensis* means ‘of or from Illinois (United States)’.

It would seem that the seed pods were popular among little boys in several North American Indian tribes, such as the Ponca, Omaha and Pawnee, as they made ideal rattles for copying the ritual dances of their tribal elders.

The adults in the Paiute and Pawnee tribes had more mundane uses for prairie mimosa. The former used the seeds to treat some eye problems and the latter washed itching skin with a leaf decoction.

Authorities state today that this is a highly nutritious plant which is high in protein.