

*Eupatorium purpureum*

[Synonyms : *Cunigunda purpurea*, *Eupatoriadelphus purpureus*, *Eupatorium falcatum*, *Eupatorium holzingeri*, *Eupatorium maculatum*, *Eupatorium ternifolium*, *Eupatorium trifoliatum*, *Eupatorium verticillatum*]

**SWEET JOE PYE** is a perennial. Native to eastern North America it has slightly fragrant, dull pink, purple or white flowers.

It is also known as Grass root, Gravel root, Gravel weed, Green-stem Joe Pye weed, Green-stemmed Joe Pye weed, Hardy ageratum, Hemp agrimony, Hempweed, Indian gravel root, Indian sage, Indian sanicle, Joe-pye weed, Jopi root, Jopi weed, Kidney root, Kidneywort, King of the meadow, King of the prairie, Knotroot, Marsh milkweed, Motherwort, Niggerweed, Pride of the meadow, Purple boneset, Purple-flowered boneset, Purple Joe Pye weed, Purple thoroughwort, Queen of the meadow, Queen of the prairie, Quillwort, *Rosenflockel* (Swedish), Sisters of healing, Skunkweed, Stinkweed, Sweet joe pye weed, Sweetscented joepyeweed, Tall boneset, Trumpet weed, and Turnip weed.

Warning – large doses can cause vomiting.

Sweet joe pye is not related to the cannabis plant (*Cannabis sativa*).

*Purpureum* is Latin (purple-coloured).

There are various explanations given for the name Sweet joe pye. One theory which is said to be the most popular in North America contends that it commemorates the white man who introduced a boneset cure for fever (especially typhoid) in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Another holds that a North American Indian whose popular name was Joe Pye or Jopi used the plant to cause profuse sweating when successfully treating a New England settler suffering from typhus and the plant was named after him. Yet another story suggests that one of the North American Indian tribes called typhoid fever *jopi* and the plant became 'jopi weed'.

Local Indian tribes used the plant for dyeing. (A pink or red dye can be obtained from the fruit.) The root was a love charm for Meskwaki suitors, and the flowering tops were a good luck one for Potawatomi gamblers.

Cherokee Indians used root ash like salt on their food, and they also used the stems as drinking straws.

The plant was used as medicine by several North American Indian tribes. The Rappahannock Indians employed it for some blood disorders, the Chippewa took it for colds, and the Cherokee used it to treat various kidney and urinary problems, rheumatism, gout and fluid retention. They and the Menominee, Potawatomi and Chippewa tribes also used it for some female problems – and the Menominee, like the Cherokee, turned to it for urinary ailments. It was a general antidote for poisoning for Indians in the Navajo tribe, it provided a laxative for the Mahuna, and it was applied to burns by the Potawatomi.

According to records, apart from the foregoing, the Cherokee also prescribed it as a tonic.

Sweet joe pye is said to have been introduced to Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

Medicinally, herbalists have recommended sweet joe pye as a remedy for fluid retention, gout, rheumatism and renal disorders. Today it is mainly used for treating bladder, kidney and urinary ailments. Recent research suggests that sweet joe pye could have anti-cancer

properties.