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*Gentiana quinqueflora*

[Synonyms : *Gentiana quinquefolia*, *Gentianella quinquefolia*]

**FIVE-FLOWERED GENTIAN** is an annual or biennial. Native to eastern North America it has small, blue flowers.

It is also known as Ague-weed, Gall flower, Gall of the earth, Snakeroot, and Stiff gentian.

*Quinqueflora* is derived from Latin *quinque* (five) and *-flora* (flowered) components.

There were varying medicinal uses for five-flowered gentian in different North American Indian tribes. The root was used by the Meskwaki to stem internal bleeding, whereas the Cherokee viewed it as a remedy for indigestion and also took it as a laxative. On the other hand the Iroquois preferred a plant infusion that was given for diarrhoea, stomach upsets, some lung ailments and worms.

Medicinally, it has been recommended by homoeopaths for treating intermittent fevers and stomach disorders, and as been prescribed as a tonic.