

Linnaea borealis

[Synonyms : *Campanula serpyllifolia*, *Linnaea americana*, *Linnaea borealis* subsp. *americana*, *Linnaea borealis* var. *longiflora*, *Linnaea serpyllifolia*]

TWINFLOWER is a creeping/trailing evergreen sub-shrub. Native to northern circumpolar regions it has small fragrant, pink flowers.

It is also known as *Almindelig linnæa* (Danish), American twinflower, Cinnamon vine, Common vine, Deer vine, Eglantine, *Erdglöckchen* (German), Ground ivy, Ground vine, Herbaceous eglantine, *Linnea* (Norwegian, Swedish), *Linnéovka severná* (Slovak), Longtube twinflower, *Lus linneuis* (Scots Gaelic), *Moosglöckchen* (German), *Nordisches Moosglöckchen* (German), Northern twinflower, Trumpet flower, Twin sisters, Two-eyed berries, *Vanamo* (Finnish), Western twinflower, and *Zimozel severní* (Czech).

The flowers (which are paired) open and are fragrant in the evening when they are pollinated by certain flies, and bees, wasps and other insects (especially if they are very small). The seeds are dispersed by birds and animals that brush against them and pick them up on their feathers, fur or hide.

Twinflower is considered to be threatened in the wild in Britain.

Borealis is derived from Greek *boreo* (north) meaning ‘northern’.

Some authorities have noted that the North American Carrier Indians gathered the plant for food.

One or two North American tribes including the Thompson Indians valued twinflower as a source of medicine. The Tanana tribe applied the crushed bulb in a poultice to ease headaches, and the Montagnais Indians appear to have turned to it for treating limb inflammation.

The plant is eaten by some grouse and elk.