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*Lithospermum canescens*

[Synonyms : *Batschia canescens*]

**HOARY PUCCOON** is a perennial. Native to central North America it has small, deep orange yellow flowers.

It is also known as American alkanet, *Bazu-hi* (Omaha and Ponca North American Indian), Golden gromwell, Hoary gromwell, Indian paint, Lady's keys, Orange puccoon, Percron, Puccoon, Red root, and Yellow puccoon.

*Canescens* means 'with off-white or greyish-white hairs'.

Authorities have recorded that children in the North American Omaha and Ponca tribes turned gum red by chewing the root with it and yellow by chewing the flowers with it instead.

Other records note that some local North American Indian tribes viewed the roots as the source of a yellow dye that was suitable for both face paint and material colouring.

The ripened white seed, as a bead, is believed to have played a role in some sacred Menominee rituals.

Menominee Indians are also said to have included hoary puccoon as an ingredient in a soothing lotion applied to a patient susceptible to convulsions.