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*Mertensia virginica*

[Synonyms : *Mertensia pulmonarioides*, *Pulmonaria virginica*]

**VIRGINIA BLUEBELL** is a perennial. Native to eastern North America it has pink buds that open to small, blue (occasionally white) flowers.

It is also known as Blue and pink ladies, Bluebell, Blue iris, Bunchflower, Chiming bells, Gentlemen's breeches, Kentucky bluebells, Lungwort, Old ladies' bonnets,

*Pärlemorfvärva* (Swedish), Pink-and-blue ladies, Puccoon, Roanoke bells, Smooth lungwort, Tree lungwort, Virginia cowslip, Virginia lungwort, and Virginia spiderwort.

*Virginica* means 'of or from Virginia (United States)' which itself was named after the English 'Virgin Queen' Elizabeth I (1533-1603).

For one or two North American Indian tribes Virginia bluebell meant medicine. The Iroquois Indians used it to treat venereal disease, and the Cherokee took it for tuberculosis and whooping-cough.