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Salvia carduacea

[Synonyms : *Salvia gossypina*]

THISTLE SAGE is an annual. Native to the south-western United States it has large red-centred, lavender flowers.

It is also known as Persian prince.

Carduacea is derived from the genus name *Carduus* meaning ‘thistle-like’.

The seeds have been used locally by North American Indian tribes to make a refreshing drink.

When roasted or dried they have also been used by the Luiseño, Diegueño, Cahuilla and Tubatulabal Indians to make flour.

The flowers offer a source of nectar for honey.