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Salvia lyrata

LYRE-LEAVED SAGE is a perennial. Native to south-eastern North America it has small lavender blue flowers.

It is also known as Cancer weed, Meadow sage, Lyreleaf sage, Purple sage, Rosette sage, and Wild sage.

Lyrata is derived from Latin *lyra* (harp, lute, lyre) meaning ‘lyre-shaped’.

While the Catawba North American Indians have used the roots in an ointment to ease sores, the Cherokee turned to the plant for a stimulant, an agent to cause sweating, a sedative and a laxative – and they also used it to treat asthma, coughs, colds, some female disorders and diarrhoea.

Herbalists have also used it to remove warts.