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Solanum carolinense

HORSENETTLE is a perennial. Native to southern North America it has small white or pale violet flowers with yellow stamens whose ends form a central cone.

It is also known as Apple of Sodom, Ball nightshade, Bullnettle, Carolina horsenettle, Carolina nightshade, Devil's tomato, Irish plum, *Lilek karolínský* (Czech), Love-apple, *Lul'ok* (Slovak), Nightshade, Poisonous potato, Radical, Radical weed, Sandbrier, Thistle, Thornapple, Treadfoot, Treadsift, Tread softly, and Wild tomato.

Warning – horsenettle is poisonous (particularly for children) and can cause severe intestinal irritation, mouth inflammation, inflamed digestive system, abdominal pain, constipation or diarrhoea, vomiting, drowsiness, loss of sensation, breathing difficulties, weakness, paralysis, unconsciousness and death. It can only be used under the supervision of a qualified practitioner. It can be poisonous for animals especially grazing cattle.

Carolinense means 'of or from North or South Carolina (United States)'.

The North American Cherokee Indians used crushed leaves in milk as a fly killer.

Teething Cherokee babies could be found wearing a root necklace.

Records also show that the Cherokee used fried berries in grease to treat mange in their dogs.

As a source of human medicine horsenettle served the Cherokee tribe as a treatment for poison ivy symptoms and a gargle – and they used a leaf infusion to treat worms.

Medicinally, since the time of the Slave Trade from Africa to the Americas (which lasted from the early 16th through to the 18th Century) this poisonous plant has been used locally for treating epilepsy. It has also been used to treat asthma and bronchitis. Today any use of it relies upon its antispasmodic and sedative qualities.