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Spigelia anthelmia

[Synonyms : *Spigelia anthelmia* var. *nervosa*, *Spigelia anthelmia* var. *obliquinervia*, *Spigelia anthelmia* var. *peruviana*, *Spigelia anthelmintica*, *Spigelia domingensis*, *Spigelia fruticulosa*, *Spigelia multispica*, *Spigelia multispica* var. *discolor*, *Spigelia nervosa*, *Spigelia quadrifolia*, *Spigelia stipularis*]

WEST INDIAN SPIGELIA is an annual. Native to the West Indies and northern South America it has purplish-white flowers.

It is also known as Loggerhead weed, Pink root, Pink root of Demerara, West Indian pink-root, Worm bush, Worm grass, and Wormweed.

Warning – overdoses of the plant can be fatally poisonous both for humans and animals.

Anthelmia means ‘expelling intestinal worms’.

On the North American mainland the Creek Indians used the plant to treat worms in children. The roots of West Indian spigelia have similar but far more potent qualities than those of pink root (*Spigelia marilandica*). While they have been used for the same medicinal purposes the roots of this species have also provided a tool for committing murder.