

## Dogbane Coleus Canina, also Pelectranthus Caninus Family: Lamiaceae

### Description

Dogbane grows annually and is from the Mint family. It grows up to 45cm high with serrated, green leaves which sit opposite from the stem; new stems also shoot away from the same spot as the leaves produce a blue lipped flower. The adult plant exudes a scent repellent to cats and dogs.

### Growing Tips

It likes well-drained soil and sunny or a semi-shaded position. Like Mint, it easily spreads by its stems or leaf nodes touching moist ground.

Plant Dogbane at 1m intervals; cuttings can be taken at the end of the season and kept in water for rooting. For best results plant Dogbane in the spring. It is also frost tender.

### Parts Used

Whole plant

### Uses

The whole live plant is used mainly for its repellent odour to keep cats and dogs away from the garden.

### Origin & History

Dogbane is a native to East Africa and Southern Asia.

Another species with the name Dogbane is *Apocynum Cannabinum*, a native of North America and an important source of fibre.

