

Common Name: **Burning Bush**

Genus: *Dictamnus*

Species: *Albus*

Family: Rutaceae

AKA: Gas Plant, Dittany, False or White Dittany, Bastard



## Historical Uses:

**Medical:** “Used to counteract the effects of poisoning or venomous bites. Closes up wounds, brings on the menses, draws out stillbirths and afterbirths, used to cleanse the womb, cures slow or painful urination, helps the asthmatic and dropsical, and is given in a bath for hysteria.”(1)

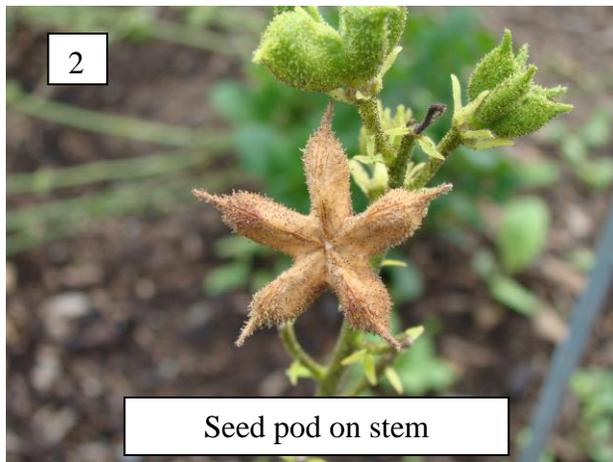
**Folklore/Astrology:** It belongs to Venus. Warm and dry in the third degree. Drives venomous animals out of houses. (2)

## Contemporary Uses:

**Parts Used:** Root and root bark. (3)

**Medicinal:** “A bitter, strong-smelling herb that lowers fever, stimulates the uterus, and controls bacterial and fungal infections. Used internally and externally for skin diseases (especially scabies and eczema), German measles, arthritic pain, and jaundice.” (4)

**Culinary:** Used as a tea and in the liquor industry. (5)



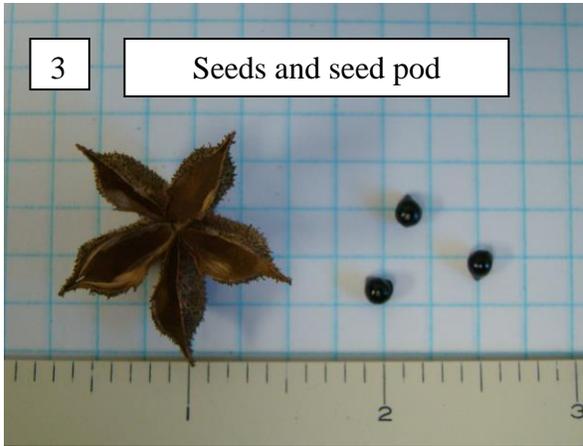
**Ornamental:** As an ornamental garden plant. (6)

**Other:** Plant gives off a gas that can be ignited with no harm to the plant.(7)

**Cautions:** Can cause skin irritation and blistering. All parts are harmful if eaten.

**Area of Origin:** Central and southern Europe, through Asia to Siberia and northern China.

(All following information from Bown)



**Physical description:** Clump forming with pinnately divided, gland-dotted leaves.

**Plant type:** Perennial

**Form:** Upright, spreading

**Height:** To 32"

**Flower color:** White to pink

**Flowering period:** Summer

**Soil type/requirements:** Well-drained fertile soils, neutral to alkaline.

**Fruit:** 5-lobed capsule containing hard, black seeds.

**Hardiness zone:** USDA 2-9

**Sun requirements:** Sun or partial shade

**Propagation:** By seed sown when ripe; by division in autumn or spring

**Cautions:** Skin irritant in sunlight. All parts are harmful if eaten.

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### **Sources**

1. Anderson, pg.108
2. Ibid.
3. Bown, pg.193
4. Ibid.
5. Anderson, pg.108
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.

### **Illustrations/Images:**

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| 1. PSUMG | 2013 |
| 2. PSUMG | 2013 |
| 3. PSUMG | 2013 |