

## Rauwolfia Serpentina, Sarpgandha - Plant



Indian Snakeroot,

Rating: Not Rated Yet

### Price

Sales price R 554

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Description

### Description for Rauwolfia Serpentina, Sarpgandha

Rauwolfia serpentina, or Indian snakeroot is a species of flower in the family Apocynaceae. It is native to the Indian subcontinent and East Asia. Common English names include devil pepper and snakeroot.

|                   |                |              |        |              |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Common name       | Flower colours | Bloom time   | Height | Difficulty   |
| Indian Snakeroot, | white, pinkish | March to May | 60 cm. | easy to grow |

### Planting and care

Sarpagandha is a famous tranquilizer and antipsychotic herb of India for the treatment of paranoia and schizophrenia, as well as a substance that controls hypertension. Sarpagandha is an erect, evergreen shrub, merely 15 to 45 cm high. Its leaves are large, in whorls of three - dark green above and pale green below. The flowers are white, pinkish or red, occurring in whorls.

|          |                   |        |             |                              |
|----------|-------------------|--------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Sunlight | Soil              | Water  | Temperature | Fertilizer                   |
| Full Sun | well-drained soil | medium | 25Å° C      | Apply any organic fertilizer |

### Caring for Rauwolfia Serpentina

- The flowers are white, pinkish or red, occurring in whorls.
- Its fruit are tiny, oval, fleshy which turn a shiny purple-black when ripe.
- It is the roots of the plant that are mainly used for medicinal purposes.

## Typical uses of Rauwolfia Serpentina

**Special features:** The wood commonly known as serpentwood, is mildly popular amongst woodcarving and woodturning hobbyists.

**Culinary use:** leaves

**Ornamental use:** The plant is used for ornamental purpose.

**Medicinal use:** it was used to treat over a million Indians in the 1940s for high blood pressure. After a U.S. physician named Wilkins demonstrated the positive effects of reserpine (1952), the plant made front page news. This drug rapidly replaced electric shock and lobotomy as treatments for certain types of mental illness. Moreover, knowledge about the chemistry of this natural plant stimulated the synthesis of other similar alkaloids that are now used as major tranquilizers.

## References

<http://www.flowersofindia.net/risearch/search.php?query=Rauwolfia+Serpentina%2C&stpos=0&stype=AND>