PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Astragalus brachycalyx subsp. brachycalyx*

**GENUS** *Astragalus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Persian manna

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Gum, Manna

The gum is used to make sweets. The gum is used as a thickener in confectionary.

## DESCRIPTION

A low shrub. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 20-100 cm high and spreads 25 cm wide. The stems are erect and branching. It forms a cushion like plant. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. The leaflets are small, oval and spiny. The flowers are small and pea like. They are in clusters in the axils of the leaves.

## HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It will grow in most soils. It is best in an open sunny position. It is resistant to drought but damaged by frost.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It can be grown from seed that need cold treatment.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

The manna is released by making small cuts.

## NOTES

There are 2,000 Astragalus species. It is the source of tragacanth used to bind pills.

## REFERENCES


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