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Allium subhirsutum

[Synonyms : *Allium ciliatum*, *Allium clusianum*, *Allium hirsutum*, *Allium niveum*, *Allium pulchrum*, *Allium subhirsutum* var. *ciliatum*, *Allium subhirsutum* var. *typium*]

HAIRY GARLIC is a bulbous plant. Native to southern Europe, to the Mediterranean and Turkey, it has pink-veined, slightly fragrant white flowers (sometimes with bulbils). It is also known as *Česnek ochlupený* (Czech), *Körmen* (Turkish), *Moly*, and *Tewm muswaf* (Maltese).

The flowers are pollinated by bees and other insects.

Warning – this is a potentially poisonous plant if consumed in large quantities for both humans and animals but authorities believe that dogs are particularly susceptible.

Subhirsutum is derived from Latin *sub-* (somewhat, almost, rather, slightly, partially, under, etc.) and *hirsutum* (shaggy, rough) components meaning ‘somewhat hairy’.

Locally hairy garlic is included in cut-flower arrangements – and the plant itself is often grown indoors.

The bulb and the leaves which have a mild garlicky taste are eaten locally raw or cooked and are used as a flavouring. The flowers also have a mild garlic taste and are eaten raw.

There are claims that the whole plant will repel moles and insects – and the plant juice has been used as a moth repellent.