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*Aloysia*

*Verbenaceae*

Today *Aloysia* is said to commemorate Maria Louisa (1751-1819), a Queen of Spain and a princess of Parma notorious for her long love affair with Manuel de Godoy, Duke of Alcudia (1767-1851). She was actually married to the Spanish Bourbon king, Carlos IV (1748-1819) who ruled from 1788 until his forced abdication in favour of Napoleon Bonaparte's brother, Joseph (1768-1844) in 1808. However at the time lemon verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) was originally introduced to Spanish gardens from South America (1768) it was given the then unpublished name of *Aloysia (citriodora)* – and in Spanish and Provençal 'Luis' is *Aloys* and *Aloisio* respectively. The plant was being named after Luis Antonio de Bourbon (1727-1785) who was Prince of the Asturias – and a brother of Carlos III and thus eventually an uncle of Carlos IV.