

*Angelica sylvestris*

[Synonyms : *Angelica brachyradia*, *Angelica elata*, *Angelica illyrica*, *Angelica montana*, *Angelica pancicii*]

**WILD ANGELICA** is a biennial or perennial. Native to Asia and Europe it has small pinkish-white flowers with long stamens.

It is also known as Ait-skeiter, *Angelica selvatica* (Italian), *Angélica silvestre* (Spanish), *Angelika lesná* (Slovak), *Angélique sauvage* (French), *Brustwurz* (German), *Děhel lesní* (Czech), *Engelwurz* (German), European wild angelica, Ghost kex, Goutweed, *Graslard* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Ground ash, Ground elder, Jack-jump-about, Jeelico, *Karhunputki* (Finnish), Kedlock, Keglus, Kesk, Kewsies, *Llys yr Angel* (Welsh), *Skogspipa* (Swedish), Skytes, Smooth kesh, *Strätta* (Swedish), *Wald-Engelwurz* (German), Water kesh, Water squirt, and Woodland angelica.

Warning – it may cause dermatitis and photosensitivity and gloves should be used to handle the plant (particularly in quantity).

The appearance of the leaves of wild angelica can be confused with those of the poisonous hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*).

*Sylvestris* means ‘wild, of or from woods or forests’.

Locally the young stems and leaves are boiled and eaten as a vegetable. Like close relatives it too can be used commercially, but in a smaller way, for making liqueurs, spirits, bitters and cordials.

The perfumery industry also employs the oil on a commercial basis, and the cigarette industry can use it as a flavouring but to a lesser extent than that of garden angelica (*Angelica archangelica*).

Wild angelica has been noted however for its yellow dye.

Records declare that in North America the Micmac Indian tribe have used the root for treating coughs, colds and sore throats.

Medicinally, its uses (such as in remedies for the treatment of colds, colic, coughs, lung disorders, typhoid, gout and rheumatism) are similar to those of garden angelica (*Angelica archangelica*). A paste made from the fruit has been used to kill head lice.