

Anthriscus sylvestris

[Synonyms : *Anthriscus aemula*, *Anthriscus nemorosa*, *Anthriscus sylvestris* subsp. *aemula*, *Anthriscus torquata*, *Cerefolium sylvestre*, *Chaerofolium sylvestre*, *Chaerophyllum sylvestre*, *Myrrhis sylvestris*]

COW PARSLEY is a biennial or perennial. Native to Europe it has small white flowers.

It is also known as Adder's meat, *Anthrisque des bois* (French), Bad man's oatmeal, Beaked parsley, Blackman's oatmeal, Blackman's tobacco, Break-your-mother's-heart, Bun, Bunker, Cauliflower flower, *Cerefeuil sauvage* (French), *Cerfoglio selvatico* (Italian), Cicely, Cisweed, Coney parsley, Cow-chervil, Cow-mumble, Cow-weed, Deadman's flesh, Deil's meal, Devil's meat, Devil's oatmeal, Devil's parsley, Devil's porridge, Dog's flourish, Dog parsley, Dog's carvi, Eldrot, Eltrot, Fairy lace, *Fluitenkruid* (Dutch), Gipsy curtains, Gipsy flower, Gipsy laces, Gipsy's parsley, Gipsy's umbrella, *Gorthyfail Llyfn* (Welsh), Grandpa's pepper, Hare's parsley, Hedge parsley, Hemlock, Honiton lace, *Hundfloka* (Swedish), *Hundkax* (Swedish), *Hundkex* (Swedish), *Hundloka* (Swedish), June flowers, Kadle dock, Keck, Kedlock, Kelk, Kellock, *Kerbel* (German), *Kerblík lesní* (Czech), Kesk, Kewsies, Kex, Kill-your-mother-quick, *Koiranputki* (Finnish), Lady's lace, Lady's needlework, Mayweed, Moonlight, Mother-die, Mummy die, My lady's lace, Naughty man's oatmeal, Oldrot, *Perifolio silvestre* (Spanish), *Persil d'âne* (French), Pig weed, Queen Anne's lace, Queen Anne's lace handkerchief, Queque, Rabbit's food, Rabbit's meat, Scabby hands, Scab flower, Scabs, Sheep's parsley, Shit parsley, Spanish lace, Stepmother, Stepmother's blessing, Sweet ash, *Vild kørvel* (Danish), White meat, Whiteweed, *Wiesen-Kerbel* (German), Wild caraway, Wild chervil, and Wild parsley.

Sylvestris means 'wild, of or from woods or forests'.

This is one of the plants whose flowers for the superstitious were not allowed inside the house not least because they could presage the death of one's mother. And this association with death is also said by some to be perpetuated in the name Queen Anne's lace. While this is thought by most people to refer to the delicate appearance, for some it is also supposed to recall the appalling number of infant deaths borne by Queen Anne (1665-1714) who only saw one of her seventeen children survive infancy.

The leaves can be used in cooking. In the Winter the young shoots can be added to soups, and in the Spring cow parsley can provide a boiled vegetable or a salad ingredient.

Medicinally, leaves and fresh or dried plant have been used by herbalists in the past especially to treat plague.