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Aster tripolium

[Synonyms : *Aster tripolinum*, *Tripolium vulgare*]

SEA ASTER is an annual or perennial. Native to Asia and Europe (including Britain), it has daisy-like yellow-centred, purple-blue flowers.

It is also known as *Astère* (French), *Astère attique* (French), *Astero* (Italian), *Astro* (Italian), Blue camomile, Blue chamomile, Blue daisy, Harwort, *Hvězdnice slanistá* (Czech), *Malmequer-da-praia* (Portuguese), Michaelmas daisy, Musk-button, Purple chamomile, *Salz-Aster* (German), Sea starwort, Serapias turbith, *Seren y Morfa* (Welsh), Sharewort, Starwort, *Sternblume* (German), *Sterribloem* (Dutch), *Stiernblomst* (Danish), *Strandaster* (German, Swedish), *Strand Asters* (Danish), Summer's farewell, and *Yildiz çiç* (Turkish); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of afterthought.

The flowers are particularly attractive to rabbits.

Tripolium means 'of or from Tripoli, the main port and the capital of Libya'.

The leaves and stems used often to be sold as 'rock samphire' (*Crithmum maritimum*).

Medicinally, herbalists once used sea aster roots for treating poisoning, fluid retention and wounds.

It is the birthday flower for 1st May.