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*Astragalus*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

*Astragalus* is for some authorities derived from Greek *astragalos* (a name for one of the bones in the human ankle joint) with reference to the shape of either the seeds or the root, and for others a Greek name for several plants in the family to which this genus belongs.

Members of this family (*Leguminosae*) absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it) to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.