

*Brugmansia suaveolens*

[Synonyms : *Datura gardneri*, *Datura suaveolens*, *Pseudodatura suaveolens*]

**ANGEL'S TRUMPET** is a shrub or tree. Native to South America (particularly Brazil) it has large, white or pink flowers which have a sweet, penetrating scent at night.

It is also known as Angel's tears, Angel's trumpet tree, *Änglatrumpet* (Swedish), *Duftende Engelstropfete* (German), Jimson weed, *Kellopasuuna* (Finnish), *Korantema* (Twi), *Rata-attana* (Singhalese), Snowy angel's trumpet, Trumpet flower, and White angel's trumpet.

The flowers change from ivory white to apricot as they mature – and then shrivel. The flowers are pollinated by long-tongued moths.

Warning – all parts of the plant are poisonous (for all mammals) although allegedly less so than prickly bur (*Datura metel*). It can cause confusion, hallucination, palpitations, thirst, flushing, nervous twitching, nausea, restlessness, an urge but inability to urinate, reddened face and neck, dilated pupils, double vision, delirium, rapid and weak heartbeat, convulsions, coma and death. Handling the plant, then rubbing the eyes, can also cause dilated pupils. It must not be taken internally during pregnancy, if taking antidepressant drugs, or if suffering from prostatic problems, abnormal heart beats or eye disease.

Sweet-scented flowers can cause stupor if inhaled for any length of time. It is poisonous for animals.

*Suaveolens* is Latin (fragrant, sweet-smelling) meaning 'sweet-scented'.

It has been alleged (despite the general warning stated by many authorities) that on the Indonesian island of Java cattle have been allowed to feed on the leaves (not the flowers) without ill effect.

In South America many of the Indian tribes still use it as a medicine both alone and as an ingredient with other drugs. However it is rarely chosen by the medicine man for achieving a trance (a frequent requirement) as it is thought that too much use of it can cause insanity.