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Ceratostigma willmottianum

CHINESE PLUMBAGO is a deciduous shrub. Native to western China and to Tibet, it has small, blue-red flowers and leaves that turn yellow to red in Autumn.

It is also known as *Bleiwurz* (German), *Cerato*, *Hornkraut* (German), Japanese plumbago, Plumbago, and Willmott blue.

Willmottianum celebrates the name of a noted English amateur gardener, Miss Ellen Ann Willmott (1858-1934).

Ernest Wilson (1876-1930), the English-born American botanist and plant collector, who was referred to as 'Chinese Wilson' by those who knew him, discovered Chinese plumbago in 1908 on his third trip to China. From the seeds he sent back to England two seedlings germinated.