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*Cestrum nocturnum*

[Synonyms : *Cestrum hirtellum*, *Cestrum leucocarpum*, *Cestrum nocturnum* var. *mexicanum*, *Cestrum scandens*, *Cestrum suberosum*]

**NIGHT BLOOMING JESSAMINE** is an evergreen shrub. Native to Middle America, Mexico and the West Indies, it has small sweetly scented, greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as *Hassu-na-hana* (Singhalese), Lady of the night, Night blooming cestrum, Night blooming jasmine, Night flowering jessamine, Night jasmine, Night jessamine, Night-scented jasmine, Night syringa, Queen of the night, and *Rat-ki-rani* (Hindi).

Warning – the leaves and berries (unripe and ripe) are poisonous and can cause abnormal heartbeat, breathing difficulties, hallucination, nervous and muscular excitement and paralysis. It can only be used under the supervision of a qualified practitioner. The flower scent can cause dizziness, nausea, headaches and throat and respiratory irritation. It can be poisonous for some animals.

*Nocturnum* is Latin (nocturnal, by night, nightly) meaning ‘night-flowering’.

The pharmaceutical industry uses a plant extract commercially.

Medicinally, an extract from the plant has been used to treat epilepsy.