

Chrysanthemum coronarium

[Synonyms : *Glebionis coronarium*, *Matricaria coronaria*, *Pinardia coronaria*]

GARLAND CHRYSANTHEMUM is an annual. Native to the Mediterranean it has daisy-like, golden yellow to white flowers.

It is also known as Annual painted daisy, *Bagaur* (Punjabi), *Chamanti* (Telugu), *Chrysanthème* (French), *Chrysanthème couronné* (French), Chop suey greens, Crown chrysanthemum, Crown daisy, *Garland* (Swedish), *Goldblume* (German), Golden crown marigold, *Guldaudi* (Bengali, Hindi), Japanese green, *Kranskrage* (Swedish), *Kronenmargerite* (German), *Kronen-Wucherblume* (German), *Kron-Okseolje* (Danish), *Kruunupäivänkakkara* (Finnish), *Lazaros* (Greek), *Malmequer* (Portuguese), *Mandilída* (Greek), *Margaridas* (Portuguese), *Marguerite jaune* (French), *Pajitos* (Spanish), *Pampilho ordinário* (Portuguese), *Shamantippu* (Tamil), *Shevantika* (Sanskrit), *Shungiku* (English, Japanese, Swedish), *Similludhi* (Greek), *Streichblume* (German), *Vihanneskrysanteemi* (Finnish), and *Zigland* (Maltese).

It is understood that botanists and horticulturists can refer to cultivated annual species of garden chrysanthemums as *Glebionis coronarium* shown above as one of the synonyms.

Coronarium is derived from Latin *corona* (crown) meaning ‘of garlands or an ingredient in garlands, or crowned’.

According to Christian legend this is yet another of the flowers that some claim is the ‘lily of the field’ referred to in the New Testament of the *Bible*.

The edible flowers and young leaves are used in Oriental cookery, the latter cooked as a vegetable, and they are also found in some Mediterranean dishes. Even today in Cyprus the flowers are still harvested sometimes and used to dye eggs yellow for Easter celebrations.

It was familiar in both ancient Greece and Rome and the stalks were used as a flavouring.

During the late Middle Ages in Britain at least, garland chrysanthemum was believed to have protective powers against witches and enchantment (provided the plant was taken out of the ground before sunrise and secured round one’s body and neck).

Medicinally, the plant and bark have been used in some Asian countries to treat venereal diseases.