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### *Coix lacryma-jobi*

[Synonyms : *Coix agrestis*, *Coix arundinacea*, *Coix exaltata*, *Coix lachryma-jobi*, *Coix lacryma*, *Coix ovata*, *Coix pendula*, *Lithagrostis lacryma-jobi*, *Sphaerium lacryma*]

**JOB'S TEARS** is a grass. Native to south-eastern Asia (particularly India).

It is also known as *Adlai* (Visayan), *Adlay*, *Adlay millet*, *Adley*, *Amadrayân* (Arabic), *Badrâng* (Arabic), *Christ's tears*, *Christustränengras* (German), *Chuan gu* (Chinese), *Coix larme* (French), *Coix millet*, *Dam 'Ayûb* (Arabic), *Deuy* (Thai), *Duai* (Thai), *Düay* (Laotian), *Erba da corone* (Italian), *Gavedhu* (Sanskrit), *Gromwell reed*, *Gurbu* (Hindi), *Hajeli* (Sundanese), *Hana* (Tongan), *Herbe à chapelets* (French), *Hiobsträne* (German), *Hiobstränengras* (German), *Jali* (Indonesian, Javanese, Malay), *Jali betul* (Indonesian, Malay), *Jali watu* (Malay), *Jelai* (Malay), *Jelai batu* (Malay), *Jelai pulut* (Malay), *Jobinkyynelheinä* (Finnish), *Job's drops*, *Jobs tårar* (Swedish), *Jobstranen* (Dutch), *Juzudama* (Japanese), *Kaatu kunthumani* (Tamil), *Katigbi* (Tagalog), *Kaudlasan* (Tagalog), *Kikirindi* (Sinhalese), *Kirindi-maana* (Sinhalese), *Kudlâsan* (Filipino/Tagalog), *Lacrime di Giobbe* (Italian), *Lacrime di Gesù* (Italian), *Lágrimas de Job* (Spanish), *Lágrimas de San Pedro* (Spanish), *Larmes de Job* (French, West Indian), *Larmilles* (French), *Lzawnica ogrodowa* (Polish), *Lzy Hiobowe* (Polsih), *Maduai* (Thai), *Menjelai* (Malay), *Netpavalam* (Tamil), *Pit-pit grass*, *Rumput jelai* (Malay), *Sanasana* (Samoan), *Sanklee* (Punjabi), *Shan yi mi* (Chinese), *Sküöy* (Khmer), *Sila* (Fijian), *Slzy Jobovy* (Czech), *Yashé otu* (Turkish), *Ye me ren* (Chinese), *Ye yi mi* (Chinese), and *Ye yi ren* (Chinese).

*Lacryma-jobi* means 'the tears of Job' with reference to the shape of the seeds.

In India, parts of eastern Asia and in the Philippines parched seeds are ground as flour. In the past it has also provided an alternative food or supplement when the rice crop (*Oryza*) has been inadequate. (Some authorities point out that the seeds are one of the cereals with the highest protein content.) The seeds are infused for a tea in Japan, and the fermented grain is used in India to make a beer.

Young leaves have provided fodder for animals.

Leaves and mature straw have been used in India for thatching.

The hard and shiny, grey seeds are threaded as beads in necklaces, jewellery and rosaries.

Newly widowed Henganofi women in Papua New Guinea are covered in these necklaces.

They can weigh as much as 10 lb. and are removed, individually, over a period of several months until the official mourning period has expired. In China both necklaces and rosaries are credited with miraculous powers. The seeds have also been strung on wires and fashioned into baskets by the Filipinos.

After job's tears had reached North America the grass's seeds came to be used by the North American Cherokee Indian tribe for making bread – and they also fashioned them into jewellery. At a less pragmatic level perhaps, seed necklaces were hung round a baby's neck to ease teething.

Today the plant is grown commercially as an Indian cereal crop.

Medicinally, the roots have been used to treat some period problems and worms in children.