

Convolvulus sepium

[Synonyms : *Calystegia sepium*, *Volvulus sepium*]

HEDGE BINDWEED is a climbing vine. Native to Europe and New Zealand it has flaring, white or white-striped pink flowers.

It is also known as Bearbind, Bearbine, Bearwind, Bed wind, Bellbind, Bellbine, Bellvine, Bellwind, Bell woodbine, Bethwind, Bind, Bindweed, Bine lily, Bracted bindweed, Campanelle, *Clych y Perthi* (Welsh), Convolvulus, Creepers, Creeping jenny, Cups, Daddy's white shirt, Devil's garter, Devil's guts, Devil's nightcap, Devil's vine, *Echte Zaunwinde* (German), Fairy trumpet, *Gærde-Snerle* (Danish), German scammony, Grandmother's nightcap, *Grande vâle* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Granny pop out of bed, Granny's night-bonnet, Granny's nightcap, Great bindweed, Greater bindweed, Ground ivy, *Haagwinde* (Dutch), Harvest lily, Hedge bells, Hedge convolvulus, Hedge false bindweed, Hedge lily, Hedge morning glory, Hellweed, Herbaceous virginia creeper, Holland smocks, Honeysuckle, Hooded bindweed, Jack-run-in-the-hedge, *Kalistegio heĝa* (Esperanto), Kentucky hunter, Lady's nightcap, Lady's shimmy, Lady's smock, Lady's umbrella, Large bindweed, Larger bindweed, Large wild morning glory, *Leblieb kbir* (Maltese), Lily, Lilybind, Lily-flower, Lily vine, *Liseron des haies* (French), London bells, Milkmaid, Morning glory, Morning star, Nightcaps, Nightshirts, Old lady's smock, Old man's nightcap, Old man's shirt, Old woman's nightcap, *Opletník plotní* (Czech), Our Lady's nightcap, Our lady's smock, Pearvine, Peavine, Pisspot, *Pohue* (Maori), *Povojka plotná* (Slovak), Robin-run-the-hedge, Rose bind, Rutland beauty, Shimmies, Shimmies and shirts, Shimmy and buttons, Shimmy shirts, Smocks, *Snårvinda* (Swedish), Strangleweed, Trailing bindweed, Trumpets, Trumpet weed, *Valkokarhunköynnös* (Finnish), *Veil'yes* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Virginia creeper, Waywind, White lily, White smock, Wild ivy, Wild morning glory, Wild potato, Wireweed, Withwind, Withywind, Woodbind, Woodbine, Wood-vine, and *Zaunwinde* (German); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of humility, insinuation, and obstinacy.

The flowers remain closed in dull weather (but not during a shower).

Warning – large doses can cause constipation. Hedge bindweed should not be taken internally for an extended period.

The appearance of hedge bindweed and field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) are similar. *Sepium* is derived from Latin *saepes* (hedge, fence) meaning 'of or from hedges'.

In Britain in the Middle Ages it was often called Devil's guts as it was regarded as a plant of the Devil.

In the past the roots and young shoots have been cooked and eaten by the Maoris in New Zealand, the Chinese ate the boiled roots as a vegetable, in some parts of India the young shoots were eaten, and in England the latter were pickled. Now however the plant is considered to be potentially poisonous and eating any part of it is no longer recommended.

Today hedge bindweed is used commercially in proprietary medicines and in homoeopathic treatments.

It is the birthday flower for 12th April.

