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Crotalaria juncea

[Synonyms : *Crotalaria benghalensis*, *Crotalaria fenestrata*, *Crotalaria porrecta*, *Crotalaria sericea*, *Crotalaria tenuifolia*, *Crotalaria viminea*]

SUNN HEMP is an annual. Native to tropical Asia (including India and Sri Lanka), it has bright yellow flowers.

It is also known as Benares hemp, Bengal hemp, *Bengalischer Hanf* (German), *Bombay Hanf* (German), Bombay hemp, Brown hemp, *Cáñamo de la India* (Spanish), *Cáñamo san* (Spanish), *Cânhamo da India* (Portuguese), *Cây muông* (Vietnamese), *Chanvre du Bengale* (French), *Crotalária* (Portuguese), *Crotalária júncea* (Portuguese), *Crotolaire jonciforme* (French), East Indian hemp, *Ghore sun* (Bengali), *Hanna* (Sinhalese), Indian hemp, *Janumu* (Telugu), Jubbulpore hemp, *Kâk'tung* (Khmer), *Karay-kagay* (Tagalog), *Kharif* (Hindi), *Krotalario junka* (Esperanto), *Kurotararia junsea* (Japanese), Madras hemp, *Orok-orok lembut* (Indonesian, Malay), *Po thueang* (Thai), *Putokputukan* (Tagalog), *San* (Sanskrit), *Sana* (Sanskrit), *Sanal* (Tamil), *Sanhanf* (German), San hemp, *Sannai* (Hindi), *Sannai sun* (Hindi), *Sannappu* (Tamil), Sann hemp, *Shon* (Bengali), *Shonpat* (Bengali), *Shu ma* (Chinese), Sun hemp, *Sunn* (Hindi, Sanskrit), Sunn crotalaria, *Sunnhampa* (Swedish), and *Wuchoo nar* (Malayalam).

The stems yield a very strong fibre.

Warning – sunn hemp can cause liver and lung disease in horses.

Juncea is derived from the genus name *Juncus* meaning 'like plants in that (rush, reed) genus'.

In northern India the young flower buds are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

Also in northern India the stem fibre is used to make rope.

The young plant is used locally for dry fodder and is also used as a green manure.

The fibre is used on a commercial scale for making ropes, canvas, fishing nets and cordage.

The fibre is also used to make cigarette papers and high-grade tissue paper.

Medicinally, the seeds have been used to treat various blood disorders.