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### *Cymbopogon nardus*

[Synonyms : *Andropogon ampliflorus*, *Andropogon nardus*, *Cymbopogon afronardus*, *Cymbopogon confertiflorus*, *Cymbopogon validus*, *Sorghum nardus*]

**CITRONELLA** is a grass. It is native to tropical Asia.

It is also known as Ceylon citronella, *Ceyloncitronell* (German), *Ceylon-Citronellgras* (German), *Citroenmelisse* (Dutch), *Citronela de Ceilan* (Portuguese), *Citronela do Ceilão* (Brazilian, Portuguese), *Citronella* (Danish), *Citronella di Ceylon* (Italian), *Citronellagräs* (Swedish), Citronella grass, *Citronelle* (French), *Citronelle de Ceylan* (French), *Citronellgras* (German), *Citronelo* (Esperanto), *Củ sả* (Vietnamese), *Ganjni* (Hindi), Geranium grass, *Citronella* (Danish), *Guchcha* (Sanskrit), *Inkivääriheinä* (Finnish), *Kamachipillu* (Tamil), *Kamakher* (Bengali), *Kamakshi-pillu* (Malayalam), *Kamkshikasuvu* (Telugu), *Kou suigaya* (Japanese), Lemongrass, *Lenabatu* (Brazilian, Portuguese), *Lenabatugræs* (Danish), Mana grass, Nard grass, *Nardusgras* (German), Nardus grass, *Nyeki-ya-kigooko* (Kikuyu), *Palczatka szczetna* (Polish), *Pengirimana* (Singhalese), *Seiron shironera* (Japanese), *Serai wangi* (Malay), *Shironera* (Japanese), *Shitoronera* (Japanese), *Shitoronera gurasu* (Japanese), *Ta khrai hom* (Thai), *Ya xiang mao* (Chinese), and *Zacate limón* (Spanish).

The leaves yield ‘citronella’ after steam distillation, an oil with a strong aromatic smell.

Apart from its commercial uses the leaves are picked locally for a flavouring in soups, hotly-spiced dishes and fish dishes. They are also infused as a tea.

Leaves provide local material for thatching dwellings.

Citronella has been cultivated in some parts of south-eastern Asia to prevent soil erosion.

It has also been included in various insect repellent ointments.

The oil is used commercially today by the perfumery industry, the toiletry industry in soaps, the household products industry in aerosols, insecticides, insect repellents, disinfectants and shoe polishes, and by the paint industry in varnish.

Medicinally, local treatments for stomach disorders can include the use of a leaf infusion.