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*Datura ferox*

[Synonyms : *Datura quercifolia*]

**ANGELS' TRUMPETS** is an annual. Native to Asia and Europe it has white-tinged, blue flowers.

It is also known as Chinese datura, Chinese thorn-apple, *Durman hrozivý* (Czech), Fierce thorn-apple, *Groot Stinkblaar* (Afrikaans), *Långtaggig spikklubba* (Swedish), Large stramonium, Large thorn-apple, Longspine thorn-apple, and Oak leaf datura.

Warning – like other close relatives the plant is poisonous.

*Ferox* means 'ferocious, spiny or very thorny'.

The leaves and roots are said to have been used in local concoctions to make what some authorities describe as a 'stupefying' drink – which might go some way to explain why some of the North American Keresan Indians believed that if one ate the roots it would be possible to see into the future.

Today in some southern States in North America angels' trumpets is considered to be invasive. Medicinally, in south-eastern Asia this annual's poisonous principles have been used locally for treating pain and sleeplessness – and some authorities indicate that this is its prime value in that region.