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Epilobium hirsutum

[Synonyms : *Chamaenerion hirsutum*]

GREAT WILLOWHERB is a perennial. Native to Asia, Europe and North Africa, it has magenta to pale rose-purple flowers.

It is also known as Apple pie, Blooming sally, Cherry pie, Coddled apples, Codlings and cream, Codlins, Codlins and cream, Currant-dumpling, Custard cups, Fiddle grass, Gooseberry pie, Gooseberry pudding, Great hairy willowherb, Hairy willowherb, *Helyglys Pêr* (Welsh), Love apple, Plum pudding, Ragged robin, *Rosendunört* (Swedish), Sod apple, Sod apple and plum pudding, Son-before-the-father, Sugar-codlins, *Violette de præi* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Willowherb, Wild phlox, Wild willow, *YeLam chew* (Ethiopian), and *Zottiges Weidenröschen* (German).

The flowers are pollinated by bees and flies.

Warning – great willowherb is potentially poisonous as past reports have indicated violent poisoning symptoms causing convulsions.

Hirsutum is Latin (shaggy, rough) meaning ‘hairy’.

According to authorities the ripe apple-like scent of the foliage may have given rise to the country name Codlings (or Codlins) and cream.

Some records seem to suggest debate amongst botanists as despite persistent descriptions of the leaves as having ‘a delicate, cool fragrance, especially when bruised’ great willowherb according to some authorities does not have a characteristic smell.