

Eupatorium cannabinum

[Synonyms : *Eupatorium nodiflorum*]

HEMP-AGRIMONY is a perennial. Native to Europe and from the Mediterranean to central Asia, it has fluffy heads of numerous small, mauve or whitish flowers.

It is also known as Ague weed, Andurion, Black elder, *Byddon Chwerw* (Welsh), *Canapa selvatica* (Italian), Common hemp agrimony, Crow rocket, Dutch agrimony, *Eupatoire-chanvrin* (French), *Eupatório-de-Avicena* (Portuguese), *Eŭpatorio kanaba* (Esperanto), Filaera, *Flocks* (Swedish), *Gemeiner Wasserdost* (German), *Hampflockel* (Swedish), *Hampört* (Swedish), Hemlock-parsley, Hemp eupatorium, Hemp weed, *Hjortetrøst* (Danish), Holy rope, Indian ague root, Jack o' lantern, *Jalousie sauvage* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Koninginnekruid* (Dutch), *Konopáč obyčejný* (Slovak), *Kunigundenkraut* (German), *Punalatva* (Finnish), Purple boneset, Raspberries and cream, *Sadec konopáč* (Czech), St. John's herb, *Sceachóg Mhuire* (Irish Gaelic), Sweet-smelling trefoil, Thoroughwort, Thread flower, *Tongollati* (Assamese), *Trevo-cervino* (Portuguese), Virgin Mary, *Wasserdost* (German), Water agrimony, Water hemp, and Water maudlin.

The flowers are attractive to butterflies.

Warning – in large doses the plant will act as a laxative and it can cause vomiting. It is recommended that the plant is not taken internally unless prescribed by a qualified practitioner.

Hemp-agrimony's leaves have a similar appearance to those of hemp (*Cannabis sativa*). *Cannabinum* is derived from the genus name *Cannabis* meaning 'like hemp (*Cannabis sativa*)' with reference to the leaves.

The name Holy rope has Christian connotations. It arose because of the similarity of hemp-agrimony's leaves to those of hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) and it was used in English country districts where they named the plant after the rope that bound Christ.

Country-folk believed that laying the leaves under bread would prevent the loaf from getting mouldy.

Hemp-agrimony was familiar both to the ancient Greeks and to the Romans for medicinal qualities.

Medicinally, herbalists recommended the-plant as a tonic, a treatment for healing wounds and a cure for scurvy. Dutch peasants also took it to cure jaundice. Today it is rarely used although the fresh plant is used in homoeopathy.