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*Genista*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

*Genista* is a classical Latin name for broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) used by the Roman poet Virgil (70-19 BC) and some authorities wonder whether it is partly derived from Celtic *gen* (a bush used for dyeing).

Members of this family absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots, they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it), to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.