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*Genista anglica*

**PETTY WHIN** is a deciduous subshrub. Native to western Europe it has small pea-like, yellow flowers.

It is also known as Carlin spurs, Cat-whin, *Cracheithin* (Welsh), *Engelsk visse* (Danish), *Englischer Ginster* (German), Galloway-whin, *Genét d'Angleterre* (French), Heather-whin, Moor-whin, Moss-whin, *Nålginst* (Swedish), Needle furze, Needle gorse, Needle greenweed, Needle-whin, Stitch-hyssop, Woadwax, Woodwax, and Woodwex.

It is pollinated by insects that transport the pollen which falls upon them when they are within range of the exploding flower.

*Anglica* means 'of or from England'.

Although many authorities subscribe to the view that *planta genista* was the medieval name for broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) there are those that believe the associated heraldic devices and legends could have applied equally to petty whin.

This shrub can often be found cultivated as an ornamental plant.