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Geranium pratense

MEADOW CRANE’S-BILL is a perennial. Native to Asia and northern Europe it has crimson veined, blue or violet-blue flowers.

It is also known as *Ängsnäva* (Swedish), Bassinet geranium, Blue basins, Blue buttons, Blue meadow crane’s-bill, Blue warrior, Crowfoot crane’s-bill, Flower of Dunluce, *Géranium des prés* (French), Gipsy, Granny’s bonnets, Jingling Johnny, *Kakost luční* (Czech), King’s hood, Loving Andrews, Meadow geranium, Odin’s flower, Odin’s grace, *Pakost lúčny* (Slovak), *Pig yr Aran y Weirglodd* (Welsh), and *Wiesen-Storchschnabel* (German); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of envy.

The flowers are pollinated by bees. At maturity the seeds are catapulted from the fruit pods a distance of up to 6 ft.

Pratense is derived from Latin *pratium* (meadow) meaning ‘of or from meadows’.

Medicinally, herbalists recommended the plant as a long-term remedy for gout and painful joints, as well as using it for treating bruises, wounds, ulcers and internal bleeding.