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*Laburnum alpinum*

[Synonyms : *Cytisus alpinus*]

**ALPINE LABURNUM** is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to southern Europe it has pea-like slightly fragrant, golden yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Alpgullregn* (Swedish), Alpine golden chain, Golden rain, Laburnum, Scotch laburnum, Scottish laburnum, *Štědřenec alpský* (Czech), *Štědřenec horský* (Czech), and Watch and chain; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of forsaken, and pensive beauty.

When ripe the fruit pods open explosively, revealing the seeds.

Warning – all parts of the plant are poisonous (especially the seeds and bark). It can be used only under the supervision of a qualified practitioner. It can cause a burning mouth and throat, abdominal pain, breathing difficulties, cold and clammy skin, dilated pupils, dizziness, drowsiness, headache, mental confusion, nausea, fever, rapid pulse and vomiting. More rarely it can also cause diarrhoea, convulsion, hallucination, respiratory failure, coma and death. It is poisonous for many animals.

*Alpinum* means ‘alpine’ ie. found above the tree line.

The hard dark-coloured wood is used for making musical instruments and high quality furniture.