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Lamium purpureum

[Synonyms : *Lamium hybridum*]

RED DEAD-NETTLE is an annual. Native to Europe and the Mediterranean it has small pink-purple (occasionally white) flowers.

It is also known as *Ackertaubnessel* (German), Archangel, Bad man's posies, Bee nettle, Bumble-bee flower, Daa-nettle, Deaf nettle, Dea-nettle, Dee-nettle, Dumb nettle, Dunch-nettle, *Enchens* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), French nettle, *Hluchavka nachová* (Czech), *Hluchavka purpurová* (Slovak), *Lamier pourpre* (French), *Lamio purpureo* (Italian), *Marddanhadlen* (Welsh), *Marddanhadlen Goch* (Welsh), *Ortiga muerta roja* (Spanish), *Paarse dovenetel* (Dutch), *Punapeippi* (Finnish), Purple archangel, Purple dead-nettle, *Purpurrote Taubnessel* (German), *Purpur-Taubnessel* (German), Rabbit's meat, Red archangel, Red bee-nettle, *Rödplister* (Swedish), *Rød Tvetand* (Danish), *Rote Taubnessel* (German), *Rouâge ortie* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Stinking weed, and *Taubnessel* (German).

The flowers are pollinated by bees. Ripe nutlet fruit have an oily, yellow outgrowth at the base that acts as a magnet for ants that then distribute them.

Warning – red dead-nettle is potentially poisonous for animals (although no recent cases have been recorded in Britain).

Purpureum is Latin (purple-coloured).

In Sweden the young leaves used to be boiled and eaten as a vegetable.

Medicinally, herbalists used a decoction of the flowering plant to stem haemorrhages, a decoction of the roots was used to treat measles, the bruised leaves were applied to wounds to staunch bleeding, and an infusion of the dried plant offered a remedy for chills.