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Lavatera arborea

[Synonyms : *Althaea arborea*, *Malva arborea*, *Malva dendromorpha*]

TREE-MALLOW is a biennial. Native to Europe (including Britain) it has small, dark veined, glossy, pale rose-purple flowers.

It is also known as *Grande mauve* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Hobbejza tas-sigra* (Maltese), *Hocyswydden* (Welsh), *Jättemalva* (Swedish), *Jättimalvikki* (Finnish), *Mauve* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Sea tree mallow, *Slézovec stromový* (Czech), Tree sea mallow, and Velvet leaf.

Arborea is derived from Latin *arbor* (tree) meaning 'tree-like or tending to be woody'.

In France it was often grown as hedging to keep evil spirits out.

Medicinally, an infusion of the leaves has been applied as a remedy for eyelid inflammation and poultices of the leaves have been placed on sprains and (as a hot mush) on swollen joints.