

*Lotus corniculatus*

[Synonyms : *Lotus caucasicus*, *Lotus corniculatus* var. *arvensis*, *Lotus macbridei*]

**COMMON BIRD'S-FOOT-TREFOIL** is a perennial. Native to the Mediterranean, Asia, Europe (including Britain) and India, it has small strongly scented, pea-like, red-streaked, golden yellow (maturing to orange) flowers.

It is also known as *Almindelig kællingetand* (Danish), *Arrête-beu* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Bacon and eggs, Birdfoot deervetch, Bird's claws, Bird's eye, Bird's foot, Bird's-foot-trefoil, Bloom-fell, Boots and shoes, Boxing gloves, Bread and cheese, Broadleaf bird's-foot trefoil, Bunny rabbits, Bunny rabbits' ears, Butter-and-eggs, Buttered eggs, Butter-jags, Cammock, Cat's claw, Catten-clover, Cat's clover, Cat-pea, Cat-puddish, Cheese-cakes, Cheesecake-grass, Claver, Cockles, Cocks and hens, *Cornichão* (Portuguese), Craa's foot, Craa-taes, Cross-toes, Crowsfeet, Crowtoes, Cuckoo's stockings, *Cuernecillo* (Spanish), Dead man's fingers, Devil's claws, Devil's fingers, Dutchman's clogs, Eggs and bacon, Eggs and collop, Fell bloom, Fingers and thumbs, Fingers and toes, Five fingers, Garden bird's-foot trefoil, *Gemeiner Hornklee* (German), *Gewöhnlicher Hornklee* (German), God almighty's flower, Goodie two-shoes, Grandmother's slippers, Grandmother's toenails, Granny's toenails, Ground honeysuckle, Ham and eggs, Hen and chickens, Honeysuckle, Hop-o'-my-thumb, *Hornklee* (German), Jack-jump-about, *Käringtand* (Swedish), *Kärringtand* (Swedish), King's fingers, King's finger grass, Kitty-two-shoes, *Ladenec rožkatý* (Slovak), Lady's boots, Lady's cushion, Lady's fingers, Lady's-fingers-and-thumb, Lady's finger grass, Lady's glove, Lady's pincushion, Lady's shoes, Lady's shoes and stockings, Lady's slipper, Lamb's cress, Lamb's foot, Lamb sucklings, Lamb's toes, *Lotier* (French), *Lotier corniculé* (French), Love and wrangle, Love entangled, Milk maidens, Old woman's toe-nails, Pattens-and-clogs, Pea-thatches, Pig's foot, Pig's pettitoes, *P'tits chabots* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Pys y Ceirw* (Welsh), *Rolklaver* (Dutch), Rosy morn, Sheepfoot, Shoe and sock, Shoes and stockings, Stockings and shoes, *Štírovník lékařský* (Czech), *Štírovník obecný* (Czech), *Štírovník růžkatý* (Czech), Thumbs and fingers, Tom thumb, Tom thumb's fingers-and-thumb, Tom thumb's honeysuckles, Tommy tottles, Trefoil, *Wiesen-Hornklee* (German), and Yellow clover; and in flower language it is said to be a symbol of ingratitude, and revenge.

The flowers are pollinated by bumble-bees.

Warning – it can be poisonous for animals.

*Corniculatus* is derived from Latin *cornu* (horn) meaning 'with small horns' with reference to the shape of the flower.

In India and some other countries common bird's-foot-trefoil is used as fodder.

Schoolchildren in southern Ireland are said to have picked the flower to protect them from their teachers' wrath.

Medicinally, the plant was used internally to ease diarrhoea and externally to treat wounds.

