

*Lunaria annua*

[Synonyms : *Lunaria biennis*]

**HONESTY** is a biennial. Native to southern Europe it has small, reddish-purple (rarely white) flowers.

It is also known as Annual honesty, *Argentina* (Danish), Bolbonac, *Ciabatte del papa* (Italian), Chinese money, *Clé de montre* (French), Common honesty, *Deniz lahanast* (Turkish), *Einjähriges Silberblatt* (German), *Erbe luna* (Italian), Everlasting flower, *Garten-Silberblatt* (German), Gold-and-silver plant, Grandpa's specs, Honesty plant, *Judaspenge* (Danish), *Judaspenningar* (Swedish), Judas' penny, *Judaspfennig* (German), *Judas-Silberling* (German), *Judas silverpenningar* (Swedish), *Kuuruoho* (Finnish), *Lunaire* (French), Lunaria (English, Italian), Lunarie, *Maaneviol* (Danish), *Manefioler* (Swedish), *Månviol* (Swedish), Matrimony, Matrimony vine, *Měsíčnice roční* (Czech), *Monete del papa* (Italian), Money, Money flower, Money-in-both-pockets, Money plant, Moneywort, *Monnaie de pape* (French), Moon seed, Moonwort, Pennieflower, Pennies-in-a-purse, Penny bank, Penny flower, Peter's pence, Pope's money, Pricking sheets, Prick-song-flower, Prick-song-wort, St. Peter's pence, St. Peter's penny, Satin, *Satin-blanc* (French), Satin flower, Satin leaves, Satin pod, *Silberblatt* (German), Silver bloom, Silver dollar, Silver dollar plant, Silver leaf, Silver pennies, Silver plate, *Stumpfes* (German), *Swllt Dyn Tlawd* (Welsh), *Vanlig månviol* (Swedish), Violet-of-the-moon, White satin, White satin flower, and *Zilverbloem* (German); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of fascination, honesty, and sincerity.

The flowers are pollinated by butterflies and long-tongued bees, and they can also be self-pollinating.

*Annua* means 'annual'.

Past confusion over the actual plant referred to in historic records (another plant was known as 'lunaria' and was believed to have magical powers) has meant that honesty's history is obscure.

Certainly from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century it has been viewed as a mainstay of English dried flower arrangements.

One country belief seems to be have been that wherever honesty thrives the household is likely to have an honest nature. This is countered by some people who will not allow it to cross the threshold for fear of misfortune.

In the past the leaves have been eaten in salads.