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### *Lupinus polyphyllus*

[Synonyms : *Lupinus polyphyllus* var. *albiflorus*]

**LUPINE** is a perennial. Native to western North America it has scented, blue or white flowers. It is also known as *Ausdauernde Lupine* (German), Bigleaf lupine, *Blomsterlupin* (Swedish), Blue pod, Garden lupin, Large-leaved lupin, Large-leaved lupine, Large lupine, Lupin (English, Swedish), *Lupina mnoholistá* (Czech), *Lupína mnoholistá* (Slovak), Marsh lupine, Meadow lupine, *Vielblättrige Lupine* (German), *Vlčí bob mnoholistý* (Czech), *Vlčí bôb mnoholistý* (Slovak), Washington lupine, and *Wolfsbohne* (German); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of imagination, and voraciousness.

There are many colours in the cultivated varieties.

Warning – the raw seed is poisonous. It can cause abdominal pain, dizziness, headache, nausea, slowed heartbeat and vomiting. It can be poisonous for some animals.

*Polyphyllus* is derived from Greek *poly-* (many) and *phyllo-* (leaf) meaning ‘with many leaves (in botanical descriptions ‘leaflets’)’.

Like *Lupinus* itself the name Lupine is derived from a Latin name for ‘wolf’ as farmers at one time believed that the plant degraded soil fertility ie. it ‘stole’ the soil and thus precluded the sowing of crops.

Apparently the Kwakiutl North American Indian tribe ate the fresh roots raw or steamed.

Some of the Pomo North American Indians made wreaths from the flowers for their late Spring Flower Dance.

Thompson Indians used lupine to treat their horses.

The plant was also a source of medicine for a few North American Indian tribes, including the Thompson Indians, despite recognition of its poisonous qualities. Salish Indians took it as a tonic.