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Myosotis scorpioides

[Synonyms : *Myosotis palustris*, *Myosotis scorpioides* subsp. *palustris*]

WATER FORGET-ME-NOT is a creeping evergreen perennial. Native to Europe it has small, notched-petalled, whitish-yellow- or pink-eyed, bright blue flowers.

It is also known as *Aimez-moi* (French), Blue water forget-me-not, Common forget me not, *Förgätmigej* (Swedish), Forget me not, Love me, Marsh scorpiongrass, *Moeras-vergeet-me-nietje* (Dutch), Mouse-ear scorpion-grass, Scorpion-grass, Snake-grass, *Sumpf-Vergissmeinnicht* True forget me not, *Vergissmeinnicht* (German), *Wasurenagusa* (Japanese), Water scorpion-grass, Yelloweye forget-me-not, and *Ysgorpionllys y Gors* (Welsh).

The flowers are pollinated by bees, flies, moths and butterflies.

Scorpioides is derived from Greek *scorpio*- (scorpion) and *-oides* (like) components meaning 'like a scorpion'.

An explanation for the name 'water forget-me-not' (and similar names for other close relatives) is suggested in a legend which told of a knight who bent to pick the flower growing beside a fast-flowing river. Sadly he overbalanced and fell in the water and as he was carried away in the strong current he threw the flower to his lady-love standing bereft on the bank, and cried out 'Forget me not'.

Alpine forget-me-not is said by some authorities to be a floral emblem of Alaska in addition to the alpine forget-me-not (*Myosotis alpestris*) adopted in 1917.

Medicinally, local herbalists have recommended a leaf infusion to treat lung problems such as whooping cough or bronchitis.