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Nicotiana alata

[Synonyms : *Nicotiana affinis*, *Nicotiana affinis* var. *grandiflora*, *Nicotiana alata* var. *grandiflora*, *Nicotiana persica*]

SWEET TOBACCO is an annual or perennial. Native to temperate regions from north-eastern Argentina to southern Brazil it has fragrant greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as Flowering tobacco, Jasmine tobacco, *Stor blomstertobak* (Swedish), Sweet-scented tobacco, *Tabák křídlatý* (Czech), Tobacco, Tobacco plant, Tuberose-flowered tobacco, *Vit blomstertobak* (Swedish), and Winged tobacco.

Warning – all parts of the plant are poisonous.

The flowers open towards evening and are pollinated by bees, butterflies and moths, the latter especially attracted by the evening fragrance.

Alata is derived from Latin *ala* (wing) meaning ‘winged’.

The somewhat sticky, aromatic leaves were smoked or chewed by local South American Indians.

The nicotine found throughout the plant has been extracted in the past for use as an insecticide. At the turn of the 20th and 21st Centuries some authorities noted that sweet tobacco with its flowers emitting an evening fragrance was viewed as an ornamental plant.