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*Olneya*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

*Olneya* commemorates an American wool manufacturer and botanist, Stephen Thayer Olney (1812-1878), who in the latter capacity had an especial interest in the sedges in the *Carex* genus. He spent most of his life in Rhode Island where he set up a woollen business. Outside his business activities his prime interest was botany and in 1845 he published the first edition of a catalogue of Rhode Island plants. He collected algae and studied the *Carex* genus about which he also wrote, as well as accumulating a botanical library, corresponding with his peers and developing a herbarium. On his death Brown University (one of the eight members of the Ivy League) received his library, correspondence and herbarium.

Members of this family absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it) to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.