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*Onobrychis*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

*Onobrychis* is derived from Greek words *ono-* (ass) and *brycho* components. Some authorities say *brycho* means ‘to gorge’ (the plant is the animal’s favourite food), others that it means ‘to bray’, and yet others ‘to smell’ (the animal brayed allegedly in recognition of the plant).

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.