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Origanum onites

[Synonyms : *Majorana onites*, *Origanum smyrnaeum*]

POT MARJORAM is a shrub. Native to south-eastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean it has small often purplish-tinged, white flowers.

It is also known as Cretan dittany, Cretan marjoram, *Francouzská majoránka* (Czech), French marjoram, Greek oregano, Italian oregano, *Kretischer Dost* (German), *Oikea oregano* (Finnish), *Spanischer Hopfen* (German), and Turkish oregano.

Onites is a Greek name for this species.

This species was only introduced into Britain in the 18th Century when it was popular for culinary applications. It also acquired a name for being able to repel ants.

Today pot marjoram tends to be cultivated for use as a culinary flavouring only when an area's climate is too cold to grow marjoram (*Origanum majorana*) – otherwise it is grown for ornamental purposes. The drinks industry uses the essential oil to flavour alcoholic drinks.

Pot marjoram is not used medicinally.