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Passiflora caerulea

[Synonyms : *Passiflora chinensis*, *Passiflora coerulea*, *Passiflora loureirii*, *Passiflora mayana*]

COMMON PASSION FLOWER is a semi-evergreen or evergreen climbing vine. Native from Brazil to Argentina it has slightly fragrant, bluish-purple centred, occasionally pink-tinged, white petalled flowers.

It is also known as *Blaue Passionsblume* (German), Blue crown, Bluecrown passionflower, Blue passion flower, Common blue passion flower, *Fjur tal-Passjoni* (Maltese), *Fleur de la Passion* (French), Flower-of-five-wounds, *Mučenka modrá* (Czech, Slovak), Passion flower, Southern beauty, and Wild apricot.

Warning – the plant is poisonous.

Caerulea is Latin (blue) meaning ‘dark blue or sky blue’ with reference to the colour of the flowers.

Some authorities believe that it could have been this species not passion flower (*Passiflora incarnata*) that attracted the Jesuits’ attention when they arrived in South America.

The vine is believed to have been introduced to Britain from southern Brazil in about 1695.

Apparently common passion flower was particularly fashionable in gardens in London’s suburbia in the 1890s.