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Pueraria tuberosa

[Synonyms : *Hedysarum tuberosum*]

INDIAN KUDZU is a deciduous, climbing woody vine. Native from Pakistan to central Nepal and to India, it has bright mauvish-blue flowers.

It is also known as *Baraalii kunda* (Nepalese), *Biraalii mando* (Nepalese), *Barali kunda* (Nepalese), *Dari* (Telugu), *Dari-gummad* (Telugu), *Kudzu de l'Inde* (French), Nepalese kudzu, *Siali* (Hindi and Punjabi), and *Vidari kand* (Gujarati).

The edible liquorice-tasting tubers can weigh as much as 50 lb.

Tuberosa means 'tuberous'.

Hill tribes in the western Himalayan regions of India have long eaten the young, sweet-tasting tubers as a vegetable (and it has also served as a famine food there).

Ponies have been fed the tubers.

Medicinally, local herbalists have recommended powdered tubers to ease chest pains and as a preventative for cholera, and the root has also been used for treating fever and rheumatism.