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Rhinanthus minor

[Synonyms : *Alectorolophus minor*, *Rhinanthus crista-galli*]

YELLOW RATTLE is a semi-parasitic annual or perennial. Native to Europe and to eastern North America it has snapdragon-like, yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Ängsskallra* (Swedish), Baby's rattle, Bull's pease, Clock, Cock's comb, *Cocriste* (French), Corn rattle, Cow-wheat, *Cribell Felen* (Welsh), Dog's pennies, Dog's siller, Dug's pennies, Fiddle-cases, Gowk's shillings, Gowk's siller, Gowk's sixpences, Hay rattle, Hayshackle, Hen-penny, *Herbe à sounettes* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Horse-pen, Horse-pennies, *Kleiner Klappertopf* (German), *Kokrhel menší* (Czech), *Liten höskallra* (Swedish), Little yellowrattle, Locusts, Money, Money-grass, Monkey plant, Pence, Pennies and happennies, Penny-girse, Pennygrass, Penny-rattle, Pennyweed, Pepper-box, Pots and pans, Poverty, Poverty weed, Purses, Rattlebags, Rattlebasket, Rattle box, Rattle-caps, Rattle grass, Rattlejack, Rattle-penny, Rattletraps, *Rhinanthe crête- de-coq* (French), Rochlis, Shacklebags, Shacklebasket, Shackle caps, Shacklers, Shackles, Shepherd's coffin, Shepherd's purse, Snaffles, *Sonnettes* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Tiddibottles, Yellow cockscombe, and Yellow rattle grass; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of singularity.

Warning – yellow rattle is a potentially poisonous plant for humans and for some animals.

Minor means 'smaller or lesser'.

The Christian Church dedicated yellow rattle to St. Peter.

The plant's leaves yield a yellow dye.

In some European country areas the appearance of these yellow flowers was once a signal that hay was ready for cutting.

Medicinally, herbalists recommended yellow rattle for the treatment of coughs and poor eyesight.

It is the birthday flower for 14th December.