

Sanguisorba officinalis

[Synonyms : *Poterium officinale*, *Sanguisorba glandulosa*, *Sanguisorba microcephala*, *Sanguisorba officinalis* var. *glandulosa*, *Sanguisorba officinalis* subsp. *microcephala*, *Sanguisorba officinalis* var. *polygama*, *Sanguisorba polygama*]

GREAT BURNET is a perennial. Native to Europe and Asia it has purplish-red bullrush-like heads with protruding stamens.

It is also known as *Blodtopp* (Swedish), Burnet, Burnet bloodwort, Common burnet, Drumsticks, European great burnet, Garden burnet, Greater burnet, *Grosser Wiesenknopf* (German), Italian burnet, Italian pimpernel, *Komíníček* (Czech), *Krvavec lekársky* (Slovak), *Krvavec toten* (Czech), *Llysyrllys* (Welsh), Maiden's heads, Official burnet, Parasol, Pimpernel, *Pimprenelle* (French), Red heads, Red knobs, *Rohtoluppio* (Finnish), *Sanguisorba* (Italian), *Sangvisorbo oficina* (Esperanto), *Toten lékařský* (Czech), and *Wiesenknopf* (German).

Great burnet is a protected plant in the Irish Republic under the Flora Protection Order 1987.

Officinalis means 'of the shop (usually the apothecary's or herbalist's)'. Certain plants used for medicinal purposes, whether of actual or legendary value, were kept readily available and acquired this name.

This perennial has similar culinary qualities to those of salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*) but is generally used medicinally.

Great burnet has been an ingredient in European herbal beers and its roots are often enjoyed roasted or stir-fried.

The root can be used today for tanning leather.

Medicinally, European herbalists have recommended it in the treatment of diarrhoea and dysentery. Great burnet also attracted attention for healing qualities for wounds and as an aid in stemming the flow of blood. Today it is used in addition for treating skin diseases. The roots feature in Chinese medicine too.