

Sinapis arvensis

[Synonyms : *Brassica arvensis*, *Brassica kaber*, *Brassica kaber* var. *pinnatifida*, *Brassica kaber* var. *schkuhriana*, *Brassica sinapistrum*, *Sinapis arvensis* var. *ambigua*, *Sinapis arvensis* var. *hispida*, *Sinapis arvensis* var. *orientalis*, *Sinapis arvensis* var. *schkuhriana*, *Sinapis orientalis*, *Sinapis schkuhriana*]

WILD CHARLOCK is an invasive annual. Found in Europe it has small light yellow flowers. It is also known as *Acker senf* (German), *Åkersenap* (Swedish), Bastard rocket, Bazzocks, *Berzac* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Brassics, Brassock, Brazzocks, Bread and marmalade, *Bréha* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Cadafarth* (Welsh), Cadlock, California rape, Calves-feet, Carlock, *Cedw Gwyllt* (Welsh), Chadlock, Charlock, Charlock mustard, Cherlock, Corn kale, Corn mustard, Crowd weed, Crow grass, Crunch weed, Curlock, Durham mustard, *Erba falcona* (Italian), Field kale, Field mustard, Garlock, Harlock, Headridge, Herrick mustard, *Horčica roľná* (Slovak), *Hořčice polní* (Czech), *Hořčice rolní* (Czech), Kedlock, Kelk, Kerlock, Ketlock, Kinkle, Kraut grass, Kraut weed, *Moutarde des champs* (French), *Moutarde sauvage* (French), Popple, *Prassha bwee* (Irish Gaelic), *Rapanca* (Italian), *Ravison* (French), *Rikkasinappi* (Finnish), Runch balls, Runchik, Runchweed, Runsh, Scaldricks, *Senapa dei campi* (Italian), *Senape arvensis* (Italian), *Senape salvatica* (Italian), *Sènève* (French), Skedlock, Skellocks, Skillocks, Skillogs, Warlock, Water-cress, *Wilder Senf* (German), Wild kale, Wild mustard, Wild turnip, Yellow, Yellowflower, Yellow top, Yellow weed, *Yobani hardal* (Turkish), and Zenry; and in flower is said to be a symbol of generation.

The flowers are pollinated by bees and flies.

Oil can be extracted from the seeds.

Warning – the seeds (or the plant eaten to excess) are poisonous for animals.

Wild charlock has a similar appearance to wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) with which it shares common uses.

Arvensis means ‘of or growing in cultivated fields or land’.

The common name Charlock is said to be a corruption of the plant’s Old English name *cerlic*.

In Ireland and northern Hebridean islands wild charlock has been eaten as famine food.

This annual eventually arrived in North America and some of the Navajo Indian tribe adopted it for use in ceremonial ritual.

The seeds can provide a satisfactory but very mild mustard and the edible leaves are not only a fodder plant enjoyed by sheep and cattle but also a vegetable when boiled (particularly in the past in Ireland and in Sweden).

The seed oil has been used for lubricating machinery.