

*Tragopogon pratensis*

[Synonyms : *Tragopogon minor*, *Tragopogon orientalis*]

**GOAT'S-BEARD** is an annual to perennial. Native to Europe it has golden-yellow flowers. It is also known as *Ängshaverrot* (Swedish), *Barba cabruna* (Spanish), *Barba di becco* (Italian), *Barbe de bouc* (French), *Bocksbart* (German), *Boksbeard* (Dutch), Buck's beard, Clock flower, Common goat's beard, Go-to-bed-at-noon, *Haverrot* (Swedish), Jack-by-the-hedge, Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon, John-go-to-bed-at-noon, Joseph's flower, *Kozí brada luční* (Czech), *Kozobrada lúčna* (Slovak), Meadow goat's beard, Meadow salsify, *Morgenster* (Dutch), Nap-at-noon, Noonday flower, Noon flower, Noontide, One o'clock, Oysterplant, *Pukinparta* (Finnish), Salsifex, *Salsifis* (French), *Salsifis blanc* (French), *Salsifis des champs* (French), *Salsifis des prés* (French), *Salsifis des prés à fleurs jaunes* (French), *Salsifis sauvage* (French), Salsify, Shepherd's clock, Sleep-at-noon, Sleepy-head, Star-of-Jerusalem, Twelve o'clocks, *Vanlig ängshaverrot* (Swedish), *Wiesenbocksbart* (German), Wild salsify, Yellow goatsbeard, and Yellow salsify.

The flowers open in early morning and close at noon.

*Pratensis* is derived from Latin *pratium* (meadow) meaning 'of or from meadows'.

The references to noon in the common names come about because of the opening and closing habits of the flowers.

In Christian lore this plant is dedicated to St. today is the patron saint of carpenters. For goat's-beard is one of the plants that was Midsummer rituals on St. John's Eve and Day (23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June).

A story is also told that goats-beard saved Julius (102 or 100-44 BC) army from ignominious defeat in 50 BC when he had ordered by the Senate to resign his office unconditionally and disband his troops. The have been thick underfoot as it fed them when they became surrounded by Pompey's (106-48 BC) troops and unable to reach their own rations.

Young stems (before flowering) used to be cooked and eaten like garden asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*) and the roots were prepared like parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*). The young leaves have been added to salads.

The dandelion-like seed heads have sometimes been included in flower arrangements.

At some point this plant became established in North America where it was observed to be enjoyed by deer, cattle and horses.

Some of the North American Navajo Indian tribe used the plant in veterinary medicine to treat their horses. It also played a role in their ceremonial ritual, and as with salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*) they used it in human medicine for treating some skin ailments. Medicinally, herbalists used to recommend the plant for treating stomach disorders, loss of appetite and pleurisy.



Joseph who the French picked for St. John's

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