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Trollius europaeus

[Synonyms : *Trollius x hybridus*]

GLOBEFLOWER is a perennial. Native to northern and central Europe (including Britain) it has ball-like golden-yellow flowers with many golden stamens.

It is also known as *Ankebälli* (German), *Boule d'or* (French), Bolts, *Bullerblomster* (Swedish), Bull jumpling, Butter balls, Butter basket, Butterbump, Butter pat, Cabbage daisy, Common European globe flower, *Cronnell* (Welsh), *Daldocka* (Swedish), *Daldockor* (Swedish), European globe flower, Globe crowfoot, Globe ranunculus, Globe trollius, Golden balls, Goldilocks, Golland, Gowan, *Kullero* (Finnish), Lapper Gowan, Locker gowlan, Lockin gowan, Lockyer goldens, London bobs, Lucken gowan, Mayblob, Meadow bob, *Niittykullero* (Finnish), *Smörboll* (Swedish), *Smörbollar* (Swedish), Stocks, *Trollblume* (German), *Trolle* (French), and Witches' gowan.

Warning – globeflower is a potentially poisonous plant that should not be taken internally particularly if fresh. It loses a large part of its potency when dried.

This is a protected species in the wild in Northern Ireland under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and in the Irish Republic under the Flora Protection Order 1987.

Europaeus means 'of or from Europe'.

Its old Scottish name was Lucken gowan and 'Lucken' meant 'closed or shut up' while 'gowan' was derived from its Gaelic roots ie. *galan* (bud or flower) and an old form of the word 'golden' *gollande*.

The flowers used to be part of garlands and wreaths prepared as decoration for churches and houses, and functions such as weddings and funerals.

Legend tells how the globeflower was considered to be the property of Scandinavian trolls who at night would unlock the flower and put venom into the cup to poison herdsmen and dairymaids.

Globeflower is said to have been used medicinally in Russia for treating allegedly 'obscure maladies' (the roots have been used in some countries to prepare a purgative).