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Viburnum lantana

[Synonyms : *Viburnum lantana* var. *sphaerocarpum*, *Viburnum lantanoides*]

WAYFARING-TREE is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to northern Asia Minor, northern Africa and to Europe (including Britain), it has sickly scented creamy-white flowers with projecting yellow stamens.

It is also known as Cobin tree, Cottoner, Cotton tree, Coven tree, Dogberry tree, Dogwood, *Gwifwrnwydd* (Welsh), *Kalina siripútková* (Slovak), *Kalina tušalaj* (Czech), *Lantana* (Italian, Spanish), *Lentano-viburno* (Esperanto), *Mancienne* (French), Meal tree, Mealy guelder rose, *Parkolvon* (Swedish), Red royal oak, Shepherd's delight, *Siripútka* (Slovak), Twistwood, *Villaheisi* (Finnish), *Viorne cotonneuse* (French), *Viorne-lantane* (French), Whipcrop, Whiptop, White weed, White wood, Whitney, Whitten-beam, Whitten tree, *Wolliger Schneeball* (German), *Wollige Schlinge* (German), and *Wollige-Sneeuwbal* (Dutch).

Warning – authorities consider the wayfaring-tree to be potentially poisonous.

Lantana is an old name for the species.

Several of the common names refer to the white hairy backed leaves eg. Cottoner, Whitten-beam, while others like Twistwood recall the days when the stems were twisted into whip handles.

Some people believe that wayfaring-tree is the 'viburnum' that was mentioned by Virgil (70-19 BC) the Roman poet.

Wayfaring-tree was not free from superstition. It was often grown in England near the entrances to cowsheds to protect the cattle inside from witchcraft.

The foliage was the source of a black hair dye.

Medicinally, herbalists recommended the leaves for a mixture that was believed to strengthen loose teeth, and the kernels of the unripe fruit were used for treating diarrhoea.