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Vicia sativa

[Synonyms : *Vicia alba*, *Vicia angustifolia*, *Vicia bacla*, *Vicia bobartii*, *Vicia canadensis*, *Vicia communis*, *Vicia cordata*, *Vicia cornigera*, *Vicia cosentini*, *Vicia cuneata*, *Vicia erythosperma*, *Vicia glabra*, *Vicia globosa*, *Vicia incisa*, *Vicia intermedia*, *Vicia leucosperma*, *Vicia macrocarpa*, *Vicia maculata*, *Vicia melanosperma*, *Vicia morisiana*, *Vicia nemoralis*, *Vicia notota*, *Vicia pallida*, *Vicia pimpinelloides*, *Vicia sativa* var. *linearis*, *Vicia sativa* var. *nigra*, *Vicia sativa* subsp. *notata*, *Vicia sativa* subsp. *obovata*, *Vicia sativa* subsp. *sativa*, *Vicia sativa* subsp. *segetalis*, *Vicia sativa* subsp. *terana*, *Vicia subterranea*, *Vicia terana*, *Vicia vulgaris*]

COMMON VETCH is an annual to perennial. Native to Europe it has small, pea-like, pale purple (occasionally white) flowers.

It is also known as *Alverja* (Spanish), *Ankra* (Hindi), *Chao cai* (Chinese), Common tare, *Ervilhaca* (Portuguese), Fatches, Fetches, *Ffugbysen Faethol* (Welsh), Fitchacks, Fitches, *Fodervicker* (Swedish), *Futter-Wicke* (German), Garden vetch, *Gewöhnliche Breitblättrige Wicke* (German), *Gilbiena sewda* (Maltese), Gipsy-peas, *Goroshek kormovoi* (Russian), *Jiu huang ye wan dou* (Chinese), Lintels, Lints, Narrowleaf vetch, *O yahazu endo* (Japanese), Pebble vetch, *Poisette* (French), *Rehuvirna* (Finnish), *Saat-Wicke* (German), *Schmalblättrige Wicke* (German), Spring vetch, Tare, Tar-vetch, Twaddgers, Vatch, *Veccia buona* (Italian), *Vèche* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Vesce commune* (French), *Veza* (Spanish), Vetch, *Vicheron* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Vika obyknobennaia* (Russian), *Vikev setá* (Czech), *Wicke* (German), Wild fitch, and *Zadowikken* (Japanese); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of shyness

Warning – the whole plant is potentially poisonous for some animals. It may cause photosensitivity and symptoms similar to those for lathyrism.

Sativa means ‘cultivated’.

Believed by some to have been introduced to Britain by the Romans common vetch was primarily a fodder crop. It has also been grown as green manure and today is cultivated for animal feed.

Today in northern India the whole plant is cooked and eaten as a vegetable and it is also dried for later use.

Medicinally, a decoction of the seed has been used locally to treat smallpox and measles.

It is the birthday flower for 13th August.