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*Wisteria*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

*Wisteria* commemorates an American physician and anatomist, Caspar Wistar (1761-1818) who owned what is now Vernon Park in Philadelphia. From 1789-1791 he was professor of chemistry at the College of Philadelphia. The College then united with the University of Philadelphia where he became adjunct professor of anatomy, midwifery and surgery until 1808(-1818) when he succeeded his predecessor as professor of anatomy – as well as a practising physician in local hospitals. He taught using large drawings and life-size anatomical models, some wax-injected human remains, and others carved in wood by the first American professional sculptor, William Rush (1756-1833) and he established the Country's first anatomical museum, the Wistar and Horner Museum. He advocated vaccination. In a yellow fever epidemic in 1793 he succumbed to a bout of the fever while treating his patients. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society (of which he was president from 1815), also President of the Society for the Abolition of Slavery, and a Fellow of the The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Reflecting his Quaker upbringing he was also involved with other bodies too such as the Pennsylvania Prison Society, and he was also interested in botany and palaeontology. His published works include *A System of Anatomy*, said to be the first American textbook on this subject.

Members of this family absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it) to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.