

Shakespeare's plants

The mulberry tree wasn't the only plant Shakespeare wrote about. In fact, he refers to around 180 plants in his works! Let's look at Shakespeare's plants

The list below shows the English common names of plants as they were written by Shakespeare. Most of these names are still used in England today but a few of them have changed.

aconitum almond aloe apple apricot ash aspen bachelor's button
balm balsam balsamum barley bay bean bilberry birch blackberry
bramble box brier broom bulrush burdock burnet cabbage camomile
carnation carraway carrot cedar cherry chestnut clove clover cockle
coloquintida columbine cork corn cowslip crab apple crow-flower
cuckoo-flower crown imperial currant cypress daffodil daisy dandelion date
dewberry dock dogberry ebony eglantine elder elm fennel fern fig
filbert flag flax flower-de-luce fumitory furze garlic gillyflower ginger
gooseberry goss or gorse gourd grace grape grass harebell harlock
hawthorn hazel heath hebanon hemlock hemp herb of grace holly
holy thistle honeysuckle hyssop insane root ivy kecksies knot-grass
lady smock lark's heels laurel lavender leek lemon lettuce lily lime
ling locust long purple love-in-idleness mace mallows mandragora
mandrake marigold marybud marjoram mast medlar mint mistletoe
moss mulberry mushroom musk rose mustard myrtle narcissus nettle
nutmeg oak oats olive onion orange osier oxslip palm tree pansy
parsley pea peach pear peony pepper pig-nuts pine pink plane
plantain plum pomegranate poppy potato primrose pumpkin quince
radish reed rhubarb rice rose rosemary rue rush rye saffron samphire
savory sedge senna speargrass stover strawberry sugar sycamore
thistle thorn thyme toadstool turnip vetch vine violet walnut wheat
willow woodbine wormwood yew

DID YOU KNOW?

The dark blue names are plants REEP uses in its Anglo-Moroccan Shakespeare Garden Project! These are plants which can be grown in many climates, including in Morocco and Spain! Discover more at

reepinfo.org



Shakespeare's plants (continued)

Inés is trying to write a list of Anglo-Moroccan Shakespeare plants, but she doesn't know the contemporary English names for some of them.

Help Inés complete her list by writing the modern English names for the red plant names. Use the table on the next page to help you.

REEP's List of Anglo-Moroccan Shakespeare Plants

almond	aloe	apple	apricot
aspen	bachelor's button	balm	balsamum
barley	bay	bean	blackberry
bramble	broom	burdock	burnet
cabbage	camomile	carnation	caraway
carrot	cedar	cherry	cockle
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> coloquintida	cork	corn	crab apple
cypress	daisy	date	dock
eglantine	fennel	fig	flax
<input type="text"/> flower-de-luce	garlic	<input type="text"/> gillyvor	ginger
gourd	<input type="text"/> grace	grape	<input type="text"/> harlock
hemp	<input type="text"/> herb of grace	holy thistle	honeysuckle
hyssop	ivy	<input type="text"/> lark's heels	laurel
lavender	leek	lemon	lettuce
lily	lime	<input type="text"/> love-in-idleness	mace
mallows	marigold	<input type="text"/> marybud	marjoram
medlar	mint	mulberry	musk rose
mustard	myrtle	nutmeg	oak
olive	onion	orange	<input type="text"/> osier
palm tree	pansy	parsley	pea
peach	pear	peony	pepper
pink	plane	plum	pomegranate
poppy	potato	<input type="text"/> pumpkin	quince
radish	rose	rosemary	rue
saffron	savoury	speargrass	strawberry
sugar	thistle	thyme	turnip
vetch	vine	violet	willow
<input type="text"/> woodbine	wormwood		



Shakespeare's plants (continued)

Use this table to help you complete the plant list on the previous page. It shows the contemporary English plant names for the old Shakespearean ones.

Shakespearean Name	English Common Name
aspen	populus
coloquintida	bitter-apple
crow-flower	buttercup
cuckoo flower	buttercup
darnel	rye grass
flower-de-luce	iris
furze	gorse
gillyvor	carnation
grace	rue
harlock	burdock
heath	heather
hebanon	yew
herb of grace	rue
insane root	<i>a mythical plant</i>
kecksies	hemlock
lark's heels	larkspur
ling	heather
locust	gleditzia or robinia
long purple	type of orchid
love-in-idleness	pansy
mandrake	<i>a mythical plant</i>
marybud	marigold
osier	willow
pumpion	gourd
stover	type of grass
woodbine	honeysuckle



Did you notice that some of the English words are already included on the list of Anglo-Moroccan Shakespeare plants? This is because there are often many names for the same plant! It's useful to know the botanical Latin name for a plant to avoid confusion. You'll learn all about this in another Unit.