

Economic Importance of Family Asteraceae

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Edible Plants

- (1) The leaves of *Lactuca sativa* (garden lettuce, Salad) is used as Salad.
- The tubers of *Helianthus tuberosus* (Jerusalem artichoke) *Cynara scolymus* (Globe artichoke) are used as food.

- (3) The roots of *Tragopogon porrifolium* commonly known as Vegetable Oyster, are edible.
- (4) The roots of *Cichorium intibus* (Chicory) are used as coffee powder.

Oil Plants

- (1) The seeds of *Helianthus annuus* (Sunflower) are source of an edible fatty oil.
- (2) The oil obtained from the seeds of *Carthamus tinctorius* (Safflower, Kusum) is useful for heart patients. Besides, it is used for the manufacture of soaps, paints, varnishes, etc.

- (3) *Tagetes minuta* (Stinking roger) and *T. patula* (French marigold, Genda) yield a strong aromatic essential oil which is used as an antiseptic, a fly repellent and a modifier in hair lotions. It is also used in high grade perfumes.
- (4) The oil obtained from the seeds of *Guizotia abyssinica* is useful for manufacture of soaps, paints, etc.

Medicinal Plants

- (1) The flower heads of *Spilanthes paniculata* are chewed to relieve toothache and affections of throat and gum. It is also a popular remedy for stammering in children.
- (2) The dried ligulate florets of *Calendula officinalis* form the drug Calendula, used in the treatment of sprains and bruises.

- (3) Flowering tops and leaves of *Tanacetum vulgare* yield an essential oil employed as a linament for gout, rheumatism and chronic ulcers.
- (4) The rhizomes and roots of *Taraxacum officinale* (common dandelion) are the source of drug Taraxacum, used as a mild laxative, hepatic stimulant and tonic.

- (5) The leaves of *Blumea balsamifera* yield an essential oil known as Blumea camphor, and the leaf extract is used in the treatment of excitement and insomnia.
- (6) The leaves of *Tussilago faffara* (Coughwort) are used in the treatment of colds, cough and asthma.

- (7) Dried latex of *Lactuca virosa*, known as Lactucarium possesses mild sedative and hypnotic properties.
- (8) The pollen of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Rugweed) causes hay fever and that of *Parthenium hysterophorus* (Carrot grass)

Ornamental Plants

- (1) *Helianthus*, e.g., *H. annuus* (Sunflower, Surajmukhi).
- (2) *Tagetes* (Marigold, Genda) e.g. *T. erecta* (African marigold) and *T. patula* (French marigold).
- (3) *Dahlia*, e.g., *D. pinnata* (Garden dahlia)
- (4) *Cosmos*, e.g. *C. bipinnatus*.

- (5) *Chrysanthemum*, e.g. *C. carinatum* (Tricolour chrysanthemum), *C. coronarium* (Crown daisy), *C. cinerariaefolium* (Dalmatian pyrethrum) and *C. morifolium* (Florists chrysanthemum).
- (6) *Zinnia*, e.g., *Z. elegans* and *Z. linearis*.
- (7) *Aster*, e.g., *A. amellus* and *A. grandiflorus*

- (8) *Calendula*, e.g. *C. moschata* (Pot marigold).
- (9) *Centaurea*, e.g. *C. moschata* (Sweet sultan).
- (10) *Helichrysum* (Paper flower)

Thank you