

ANOTHER HERB HERBERT FAVOURITE HERBS

FACT SHEET



Tansy

Tanacetum vulgare

There are about 70 species of annuals and perennials in this genus, which ranges throughout northern temperate regions. Many are aromatic, containing pungent volatile oils and insecticidal compounds that may cause unpleasant reactions if handled, or consumed in excess. Some of the perennials become woody and shrub-like with age.

Tanacetum vulgare has exquisitely cut leaves, which are particularly attractive in spring. It is a much better garden plant than the species, being more compact and less pungently scented.

PARTS USED

Whole plant, oil. One should not get disillusioned when using plants as a natural approach to insect eradication. A couple of simple rules will guide you to reduced insect problems. Firstly, what repels insects from a herb is the oil within its leaves which need to be released to be effective. To release the sap or oil the herb

USES OF THE HERB

Culinary

Leaves used in moderation to add a peppery flavour to some foods.

Aromatic

Flowers are added to potpourris.

Medicinal

The herb is possibly unsafe for internal use, especially in pregnancy, although sometimes recommended for failure to menstruate and nausea. Tansy oil is highly toxic for both internal and external use, and very small amounts may prove fatal; excess can cause abortion.

Economic

Tansy was once important in preserving meat, and colonists planted it by their front doors to repel ants. Bunches hung in doorways and windows help to repel flies.



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CULTIVATION

Well-drained to dry stony soil in sun. Propagate by seed sown in spring or autumn, or by division in spring and autumn, or by basal cuttings in spring.

HARVEST

Plants are cut when flowering and leaves picked as required..



Height 60cm/24in
Spread indefinite.

must be cut or bruised. Bunches can be cut and hung by any door or BBQ or planted near a walkway where the plant will be brushed by passers by. When doing your yearly prune, these herbs can also be dried for sachets to repel insects inside your house.

PROPERTIES

A bitter, acrid, warming herb with a pungent aroma. Leaves and flowers contain natural dye properties.



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