

FLOWERS AND PETS

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Jasmine azoricum



Jasmine auriculatum



Jasmine nudiflorum

The wonders of Jasmine

Jasmine (Jasminum) is a genus of shrubs and vines in the olive family Oleaceae, with about 200 species, native to tropical and warm temperate regions. The majority of species grow as climbers on other plants or on structures such as gates or fences. The leaves can be either evergreen or deciduous.

Uses

Jasmine is widely cultivated for its flowers, enjoyed in the garden, as house plants, and as cut flowers. The flowers are worn by women in their hair in southern and South-east Asia. Many species also yield an absolute, which is used in the production of perfumes and incense.

Jasmine tisane is consumed in China, where it is called Jasmine flower tea pinyin. Jasmine sambac flowers are also used to make tea, which often has a base of green tea, but sometimes an Oolong base is used. The Jasmine flower opens only at night and is plucked in the morning when the tiny petals are tightly closed. They are then stored in a cool place until night. Between six and eight in the evening, as the temperature cools the petals begin to open.

Flowers and tea are "mated" in machines that control temperature and humidity. It takes four hours or so for the tea to absorb the fragrance and flavour of the Jasmine blossoms, and for the highest grades, this process may be repeated as many as seven times. Because the tea has



Kingdom: Plantae
(unranked): Angiosperms
(unranked): Eudicots
(unranked): Asterids
Order: Lamiales
Family: Oleaceae
Tribe: Jasmineae
Genus: Jasminum

absorbed moisture from the flowers, it must be refired to prevent spoilage. The spent flowers may or may not be removed from the final product, as the flowers are completely dry and contain no aroma. Giant fans are used to blow away and remove the petals from the denser tea leaves. If present, they simply add visual appeal and are no indication of the quality of the tea.

The French are known for their Jasmine syrup, most commonly made from an extract of the Jasmine flower. In the United States, this Jasmine syrup is used to make Jasmine scones. Jasmine is also made into an oil which is now commonly in use. Its flowers are either extracted by the labour-intensive method of effluage or through chemical extraction.

The reason it is so expensive is because of the enormous amount of flowers needed to produce a small amount of oil. The flowers have to be gathered at night because the odour of jasmine is more powerful after dark.

Some of the countries producing Jasmine essential oil are India, Egypt, China and Morocco. Its chemical constituents include methyl anthranilate, indol, benzyl alcohol and linalol. There are over 200 species of jasmine.

National Flower

Jasmine is the National Flower of the following countries, the Philippines, where it is known as "Sampaguita", and is usually strung on garlands which are then used to adorn religious images. Indonesia, where the variety Jasminum sambac is the "puspa bangsa" (National Flower), and goes by the name "Melati". In the country, especially the island of Java, it is the most important flower in wedding ceremonies for ethnic Indonesians.

In Pakistan, where it is Jasminum officinale is known as the "Chambeli" or "Yasmeen" is the national flower. In Syria, it is the symbolic flower of Damascus, which is called the City of Jasmines. In Sanskrit it is called "Mallika" and "Chameli" in Hindi. Jasmine is cultivated at Pangala, in Karnataka, India and exported to Middle Eastern countries. J. fluminense is an invasive species in Hawaii, where it is sometimes known by the inaccurate name "Brazilian Jasmine". In Thailand, jasmine flowers are used as a symbol of the mother.

In Sri Lanka it is commonly known as Pichcha Mal and is also used a lot to give as offering to temples and decorating the oil lamp.

Source: Wikipedia



Jasmine sambac



Jasmine polyanthum



Jasmine sambac

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Tips for taking care of your pet's teeth

Puppies and kittens lose their "baby" teeth in the first year. Getting your pet used to having their mouth examined and teeth brushed is a good start to healthy teeth and gums. As pets age, dental tartar and plaque may affect not only the teeth, but gums, heart and internal organs as well.

Here are some dental health resources to keep your pet healthy.

Keeping your pet's teeth and gums in good shape has many health benefits in addition to the sparkling fresh breath. Here are answers to several



Meowee...



Grrrr...

al common pet dental health questions.

Dental disease is not simply suffering from "bad breath" infections of the gums, teeth, and oral cavity can spread via the bloodstream to the heart and liver, possibly causing

additional health problems. Dogs and cats may express dental pain and disease in many ways. Here is a list of common signs and behaviors seen with diseases of the teeth and gums.



Mexican Axolotl

The Mexican Axolotl

The Mexican Axolotl (pronounced ACK-suh-LAH-tuhl) salamander has the rare trait of retaining its larval features throughout its adult life.

This condition, called neoteny, means it keeps its tadpole-like dorsal fin, which runs almost the length of its body, and its feathery external gills, which protrude from the back of its wide head.

Found exclusively in the lake complex of Xochimilco (pronounced SO-chee-MILL-koh) near Mexico City, axolotls differ from most other salamanders in that they live permanently in water. In extremely rare cases, an axolotl will

"Did you know?"
➤ Type: Amphibian
➤ Diet: Carnivore
➤ Average lifespan in the wild: 10 to 15 years
➤ Size: up to 12 in (30 cm)
➤ Weight: 2.11 to 8 oz (60 to 227 g)
➤ Because they have the ability to regenerate lost body parts, Axolotls are probably one of the most scientifically studied salamanders in the world.
➤ Protection status: Endangered

progress to maturity and emerge from the water, but by and large, they are content to stay on the bottom of Xochimilco's lakes and canals. Close relatives of the tiger salamander, axolotls can be quite large, reaching up to a foot (30

centimeters) in length, although the average size is closer to half that. They are typically black or mottled brown, but albino and white varieties are somewhat common, particularly among captive specimens. Source: NatGeo