



Rue

DID YOU KNOW?



The club on a deck of cards is a rue leaf.



ORIGINS

Rue is native to the Mediterranean region. Ancient Egyptians, Romans, and Greeks believed that rue could treat many illnesses. During the Middle Ages, Europeans believed it had magical powers.



During the Middle Ages, rue was hung in doorways and windows to keep evil spirits out.

CLASSIFYING RUE

FAMILY
Rutaceae
(Citrus family)

There are more than 1,600 species of shrubs and trees in this family. Most have strong scents.

The best-known members of this family are those that produce edible fruits.



GENUS

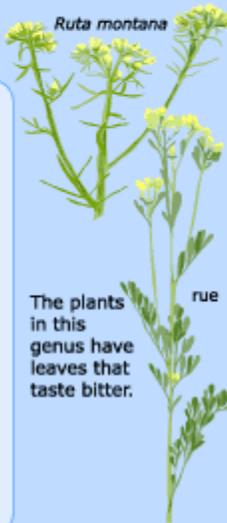
Ruta

In Latin, this means "bitter."

SPECIES

graveolens

In Latin, this means "strong smelling."



The plants in this genus have leaves that taste bitter.

THE RUE PLANT

Rue is a small evergreen shrub that is shaped like a mound. It grows up to 60 cm high.



The tiny yellow flowers are in clusters above leaves.



The silver-green leaves have a strong smell.

GROWING RUE

Rue thrives in well-drained soil in full sun.

Rue is a bush that grows year after year. You can start new rue plants from seeds. You can also start a new plant by cutting a piece of stem and sticking it in potting mix. Sometimes

little plants start growing around a rue plant. They can be dug up and replanted.



I'm going to transplant these little rue plants all around my garden.

USES

Today, rue is mostly used as an ornamental plant in rock gardens and herb gardens. It has also been used as a medicine for earaches, an insect repellent, and an herb for flavoring foods. Some processed foods are flavored with rue. Some cosmetics and perfumes also contain rue.

Be careful if you grow rue in your garden. Some people get a rash when they touch it.

