

Lunaria annua

Honesty

Honesty is a lovely, old fashioned biennial, rarely seen in gardens today and yet an easy to grow, colourful reminder of years gone by. **Honesty** (*Lunaria annua*) is a native of the Balkans and south-west Asia, but, probably because it seeds so freely, is popular as a garden plant and also naturalised in many parts of the world.

The name '**Honesty**' may refer to the remains of the seed pods which are translucent once the skins peel off to



release the seeds. It's also called *Money Plant* in South East Asia, *Silver Dollars* in the USA and *Judaspenge* (coins of Judas) in Denmark. The scientific name *Lunaria* means '**moon shaped**' which describes the seed pods. Older Australians will remember the dried stems with peeled, silvery seed pods in dried arrangements in the front hallways of grandmothers and great aunts!



Honesty (*Lunaria annua*) is a member of the plant family **Brassicaceae** which includes cabbages, cauliflower, broccoli (*Brassica oleracea*), radish, canola (rape) and turnips. The family is unusual in that it is one of the very few with which **mycorrhizal fungi are NOT associated**. The earlier name for the family, **Cruciferae**, means 'bearing a cross' as the four petals form the shape of a cross. In recent years, another member of the family, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, has come into our attention as a model plant for genetics studies and was the first plant to have its genome sequenced.

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunaria_annua

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brassicaceae>

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