

Common Name: **Figwort**

Genus: *Scrophularia*

Species: *nodosa*

Family: Scrophulariaceae

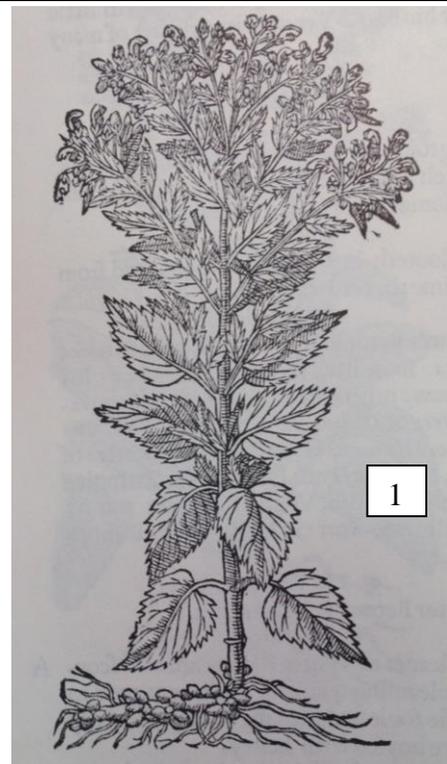
AKA: Figge-wort, Brownwort, Kernel-wort, Throatwort, Carpenter's Square, Kernelwort, Deilen Ddu (Welsh), Rose Noble (Irish), Herbe du Siege (French)



Historical Uses:

Medical: “ Fig-wort is good against the hard kernells.... It is reported to be a remedy against those diseases whereof it tooke his name, as as also the painefull piles and swelling of the haemorrhoides. Divers do rashly teach, that if it be hanged about the neck, or else carried about one, it keepeth a man in health. Some do stamp the root with butter, and set it in a moist shadowie place fifteene days together; then they do boyle it, straine it, and keep it, wherewith they anoint the hard kernells, and the haemorrhoid veins, or the piles which are in the fundament, and that with good successe.” (1)

“The decoction of the herb taken inwardly, and the bruised herb applied outwardly, dissolves clotted and congealed blood within the body, coming by any wounds, bruise, or fall; and is no less effectual for the king's evil, or any other knobs, kernels, bunches, or wens, growing in the flesh wheresoever; and for the haemorrhoids, or piles.” (2)



Folklore/Astrology: “*Venus* owns the herb, and the *Celestial Bull* will not deny it: therefore a better remedy cannot be for the king's evil, because the moon, that rules the disease, is exalted there.” (3)

Contemporary Uses:

Parts Used: Herb

Medicinal: “Of the different kinds of Figwort used, this species is most employed, principally as a fomentation for sprains, swellings, inflammations, wounds and diseased parts, especially in scrofulous sores and gangrene.” (4)



“Internally for chronic skin diseases (such as eczema, psoriasis, pruritus), mastitis, swollen lymph nodes, and poor circulation. Contraindicated for heart conditions. Externally for skin diseases (including fungal infections), wounds, burns, ulcers, and skin inflammations.” (5)

Area of Origin: Europe
Physical description: Perennial with tuberous rhizomes and ovate, pointed, toothed leaves, to 5” long. Small green-brown flowers are borne in panicles in summer, followed by ovoid capsules. (4, Bown p. 364)

Plant type: Perennial, Annual
Height: 16”- 48”
Flower color: Green-brown, purple
Flowering period: July

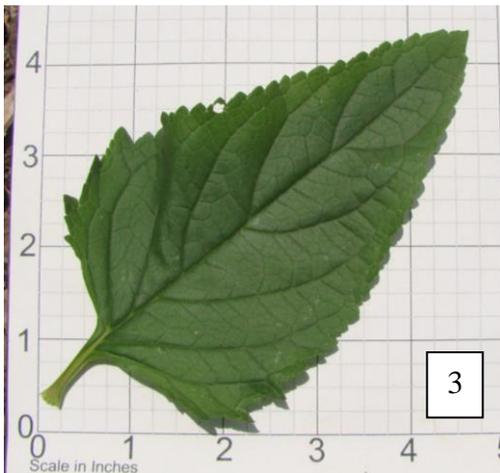
Soil type/requirements: Moist to wet soil

Fruit: Ovoid capsules

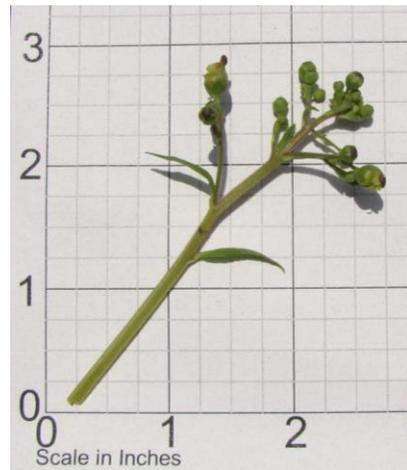
Hardiness zone: USDA

Sun requirements: Full sun or partial shade

Propagation: By seed sown in autumn or spring; by division or basal cuttings in spring.



Close-up of Figwort leaf



Close-up of the flower head

Sources

1. Gerard, p. 716
2. Culpepper, p. 60
3. Ibid
4. Grieve, p. 313
5. Bown, p. 364

Illustrations/Images:

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| 1. Gerard's Herbal | 816 |
| 2. PSUMG | 2014 |
| 3. PSUMG | 2014 |
| 4. PSUMG | 2014 |