



The Herb Society of America

Promising Plants Profiles

Datura metel

Genus: *Datura*

Specific Epithet: *metel*

Common Name: horn of plenty, devil's trumpet

Family: Solanaceae

Flower Color: white, yellow or purple

Form: annual

Hardiness Zone: 9

Height: 3-4'

Soil: rich soil

Sun: full sun

Uses: ornamental, medicinal



“Devil’s trumpet is a plant that always commands the attention of the summer visitors to the National Herb Garden. It grows 3 or 4 feet tall with large, dark green leaves, sometimes with purple stems. The foliage has a rank smell, but the large, trumpet-shaped flowers have a sweet fragrance that permeates the garden, especially in the mornings and evenings. They come in single and double forms, and a variety of colors, from white to yellow and light to dark purple.

Datura metel, a member of the Soanaceae, or nightshade family, often appears on poisonous plant lists. It contains toxic tropane alkaloids, which are responsible for the plant’s long history as a medicinal herb. Easy to grow from seed started indoors a month before the last frost in zone 7 and lower, the plants will start flowering when they are about a foot tall. They thrive in rich garden soil and flower best in full sun.”

– James Adams, Curator of the National Herb Garden, Promising Plants Presentation, 2004

Seed Source: J.L. Hudson, Seedsman in La Honda, California, and The Fragrant Path in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska.

Photo by James Adams

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Disclaimer: Profiles are intended to provide a brief introduction to each herb. For additional information on uses, including medicinal contraindications, see the References list. The Herb Society of America can not advise, recommend, or prescribe herbs for medicinal use. Please consult a health care provider before pursuing any herbal treatments. Inclusion of vendor information does not indicate an endorsement by The Herb Society of America, and HSA can not guarantee availability of seeds/plants.