

OX EYE DAISY

Leucanthemum vulgare



Leucanthemum vulgare, is a perennial herb one to three feet high by 1 foot (0.30 m) wide. It blooms from late spring to autumn. The stem is mostly unbranched and sprouts laterally from a creeping rhizomatous rootstock. It is one of a number of family Asteraceae plants to be called a "daisy", and has the additional vernacular names common daisy, dog daisy and moon daisy. It was an introduced species via European gardens into natural areas in parts of Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, where it is now a common weed. In some habitats it is an invasive species forming dense colonies displacing native plants and modifying existing communities, and is classified as a noxious weed. It is difficult to control or eradicate, since a new plant can regenerate from rhizome fragments and is a problem in pastures where beef and dairy cattle graze, as usually they will not eat it, thus enabling it to spread. Ox-eye daisy is a host for several viral diseases affecting crops.

The unopened flower buds can be marinated and used in a similar way to capers. Grieve's Modern Herbal (1931) states that "The taste of the dried herb is bitter and tingling, and the odour faintly resembles that of valerian."