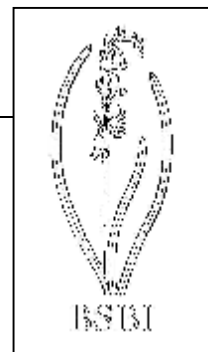


Plant Crib



LABURNUM

Laburnum Fabr. taxa are sometimes planted in hedges, but rarely appear self-sown. Recent studies have shown that there may be three taxa involved which can be distinguished using the Table and illustrations below. The hedge plants in Wales are the hybrid (*L. × watereri* (Wettst.) Dippel) and a large-flowered cultivar of *L. anagyroides* Medik: the hybrid flowers about three weeks later than *L. anagyroides*.

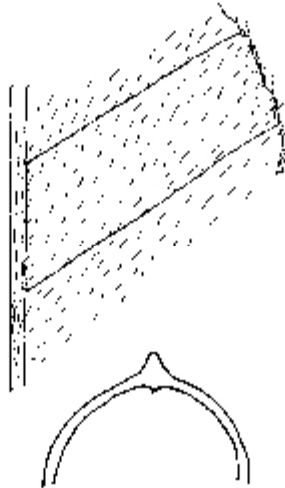
In the hybrid, both the legumes and leaves tend to lose their hairs as the season progresses. Also in the hybrid, the ovary usually remains glabrous until well after the petals have fallen, the often quite dense hairs on the legume developing at a surprisingly late stage.

	<i>L. anagyroides</i> of Welsh hedges	<i>L. × watereri</i> of Welsh hedges	<i>L. alpinum</i> (note 1)
Young shoot apices and rachis of racemes	White-sericeous	Subglabrous, green	Subglabrous, green
Lower surface of leaflets	Densely appressed-hairy, with abundant short hairs 0.1-0.3 mm and sparse long hairs 0.4-0.7 mm	Without short hairs, and with only the sparse long hairs 0.4-0.7 mm (occasionally glabrous)	Glabrous except on veins (occasionally with very sparse long hairs 0.4-0.7 mm near margins or when young)
Corolla	22-23 mm (see note 1)	18-21 mm (see note 2)	14-17(-18) mm
Dark markings inside standard	Reaching at least ½ way up	Reaching not more than 1/3 of way up	Reaching not more than 1/3 of way up, or absent
Legume	Appressed-hairy, with thick, rigid, coriaceous walls	Subglabrous or appressed-hairy, with thin but scarcely flexible walls	Glabrous at least when mature, with thin, flexible walls
Upper suture of legume in section	Broad and truncate	Acute, or with a keel up to 1 mm high	With a conspicuous wing <i>c.</i> 2 mm high
Seeds	(1-)2-4(-6)/pod	1-2(-3)/pod	1-5/pod

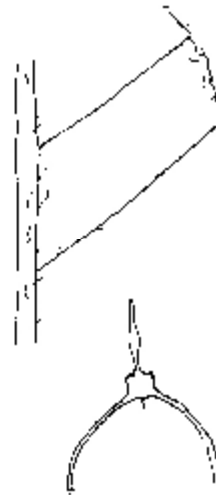
Plant Crib



L. anagyroides



L. watereri



L. alpinum

Lower surface of leaflet and TS of upper suture of legume

Notes

1. Wild continental material, material in Leicester gardens, and all material in **K** and **BM** have corollas 17-20 mm and seeds (1-)4-8(-9).
2. Herbarium material of garden origin at **K** and **BM** has corollas (14-)15-18 mm.

Author A. O. Chater, December 1997.