

The Friends of the D.D. Collins House



Located at the Corner of Combs
and West Main Street
Collinsville, IL 62234

Phone: Call Lavadna at 618.420.0288

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Herbs

Feverfew ~



Feverfew Flowers in the wild.

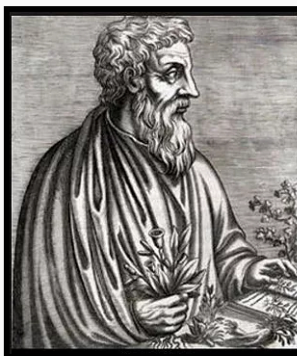
The Feverfew plant is an herb with a bright little daisy-like flower. It is actually a member of the chrysanthemum family, more specifically the daisy chrysanthemum family. It differs from the Gerbera Daisy family in several respects. The main difference is the origination. The daisy chrysanthemum originated in Asia, while the Gerbera Daisy originated in South Africa. There are also differences in the leaf structures, as well as the colors, shapes of the flowers and climate preferences of each.

1,500 Years of Greek Wisdom

Feverfew has been used since the first century, and perhaps even longer, as a medicinal herb. Derived from the Latin word, *febrifugia*, meaning "fever reducer," Feverfew was documented for its medicinal qualities by the Greek botanist, pharmacologist, and physician, Pedanius Dioscorides. Dioscorides was employed by the Roman Empire and wrote what was considered the physician's bible of medical wisdom, *De Materia Medica*, a five-volume pharmacopea encyclopedia widely read and used for more than 1,500 years!



Koehler's Medicinal-Plants 1887



Pedanius Dioscorides



*Vienna Dioscorides European
Bramble illustration*

Fever and Fire~

The scientific name is *Tanacetum parthenium*, but is referred to more commonly by the synonyms, *Chrysanthemum parthenium* and *Pyrethrum parthenium*. Pyrethrum, derived from the Greek word, *pur* (fire) is the key here, since the roots are spicy hot and bitter, too. Pyrethums have become a key ingredient for insect repellents. In herbal medicine, the uses include reducing fever, relief from migrain headaches, stress and fatigue, as well as female maladies. A tonic can also be made by boiling the leaves and using the cooled liquid to repel fleas for dogs or bees for humans. Making a tincture from this herb can also be used to reduce irritation from insect bites. During the Middle Ages it was thought Feverfew would protect one from the plague and the bite of mad dogs. While it is still widely used as an herbal remedy, people who are allergic to ragweed will have adverse reactions to this herb as well. Feverfew attracts flies and slugs, but clever gardeners can create a toad paradise by placing small clay pots on their sides near the plant. The toads show their gratitude for these little toad houses by gorging themselves on the pest buffet the plants attract.



Feverfew flowers in the garden



Feverfew leaf



Garden Toad House



*Feverfew at our D.D. Collins House
April ~ 2017*

