

Last Updated: 15th January 2003

LALLEMANTIA

Family: Labiatae

Genus: *Lallemantia*

Species: *iberica* (Fischer & C.A. Meyer)



Source: <http://www.inaro.de/Deutsch/KULTURPF/Drachenkopf/Anbaute.html>

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General Background

Other names: Dragons head

An annual or perennial herb, or dwarf shrub. Cymose inflorescences arise to resemble a whorl of flowers and occur in spikes. The calyx is tubular and veined, the corolla is 2-lipped and is characterised by 2 longitudinal folds within the upper lip of the corolla in which the stamens are concealed.

Lallemantia iberica originates in the Caucasian region and is cultivated for ornament and may be locally naturalised in East and East Central Europe. All European species grow mainly in dry, more or less open habitats and tend to become naturalised as weeds outside their native territory. It requires a light well-drained soil and thrives in a sunny position although it prefers a relatively cool situation. It can not be grown successfully in areas where soil quality is poor and does not tolerate heavy clay soils.

Details of Quality Characteristics

Nutritional content of Lallemantia oilcake:

As a % of Dry Matter	DM	CP	CF	Ash	EE	NFE	Ca	P
Oilcake with shells, solvent extracted, Morocco	87.6	35.9	26.5	10.2	1.8	25.6	1.14	1.60
Oilcake without shells, solvent extracted, Morocco	90.0	46.0	15.5	14.6	2.4	21.5	0.66	1.79

Source: <http://www.fao.org/ag/aga/agap/frg/AFRIS/Data/507.htm>

Digestibility of Lallemantia oilcake:

Digestibility (%)	Animal	CP	CF	EE	NFE	ME
Oilcake with shells, solvent extracted, Morocco	Sheep	80.9	25.8	59.3	56.9	2.31

Source: <http://www.fao.org/ag/aga/agap/frg/AFRIS/Data/507.htm>

Current Production and Yields

Evaluations carried out in 1986 –1987 showed low oil yields for lallemantia. Currently Germany is showing some scientific interest/development in Lallemantia as an oil crop.

Constraints upon Production

Due to low yields there is currently little market interest in Lallelantia.

Markets and Market Potential

Lallelantia is cultivated for its seeds from which an oil is extracted, the seed contains up to 30% of a drying oil. It is used for lighting, as a varnish, in paints and as a lubricant. The oil may also be used for oil-foods and as a tanning agent. It is a linseed substitute, linseed oil has a number of applications including; use as a wood preservative, as an ingredient of oil-based paints, in furniture polishes, printing inks and soap making. It is also used in the manufacture of linoleum.

The oilcake has been used to feed horses, ruminants and rabbits with no observed ill effects. A cow can be fed up to 2kg per day.

Other Information

Lallelantia is sown in spring, until the middle of April, at a rate of 18kg/ha, seed depth 2 - 3 cm and a row distance of 13.5cm. The minimum temperature for germination is 2 - 3°C and the time to germination is 1 to 2 weeks. Lallelantia develops very fast and therefore weed control is not necessary with normal weeds. Crop rotation is advised. There are no certified herbicides for lallelantia.

An application of nitrogen of 20-30 kg/ha is sufficient as higher application rates are not yield effective. (Fertilisation should take place during crop rotation).

Flowers of Lallelantia are classed as hermaphrodite and bees are responsible for pollination. The plant is a good habitat for native wildlife providing a good source of food and shelter.

Research

Useful Websites

<http://www.inaro.de/Deutsch/KULTURPF/Drachenkopf/Anbaute.html> - General information on Lallemandia

<http://www.fao.org/ag/aga/agap/frg/AFRIS/Data/507.htm> - Production statistics

<http://www.hear.org/gcw/html/index.html> - Global Compendium of Weeds home page

<http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/altlight.html> - Animal feed resources information system

BioMat Net

Contacts

[Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V \(FNR\)](#), Hofplatz 1, D-18276 Gülzow, Germany.

References

