

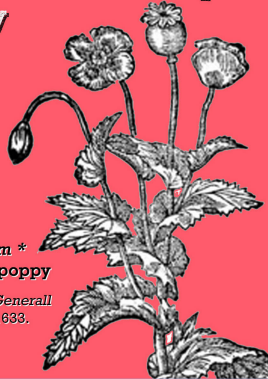
# SHAKESPEARE ON PLANTS

Not poppy, nor mandragora,  
Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world  
Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep  
Which thou owedst yesterday

**Othello**  
III.3.334-337

*Papaver sativum album* \*  
White garden poppy

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.



\* Today called *Papaver somniferum*, or opium poppy

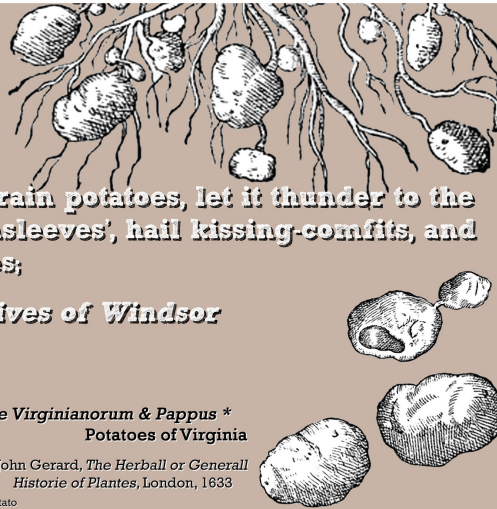
Let the sky rain potatoes, let it thunder to the  
tune of 'Greensleeves', hail kissing-comfits, and  
snow eryngoes;

**The Merry Wives of Windsor**  
V.5.18-20

*Battata Virginiana sive Virginianorum & Pappus* \*  
Potatoes of Virginia

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633

\* Today called *Solanum tuberosum*, or potato



No, no, no, your son was misled with a  
snipped-taffeta fellow there, whose villainous saffron  
would have made all the unbaked and doughy youth  
of a nation in his colour.

**All's Well That End's Well**  
IV.5.1.4

*Crocus florens* \*  
saffron with floure

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.

\* Today called *Crocus sativa*, or saffron crocus



Hot lavender, mints, savory, marjoram,  
The marigold, that goes to bed with' sun,  
And with him rises, weeping. These are flowers  
Of middle summer...

**The Winter's Tale**  
IV.4.104-107

*Lavandula flore caeruleo* \*  
Common Lavender Spike

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1597.



\* Today called *Lavandula angustifolia*, or English lavender

Lafeu 'Twas a good lady, 'twas a good lady. We may  
pick a thousand salads ere we light on such  
another herb.

Clown Indeed, sir, she was the sweet-marjoram of  
the salad, or rather the herb of grace.

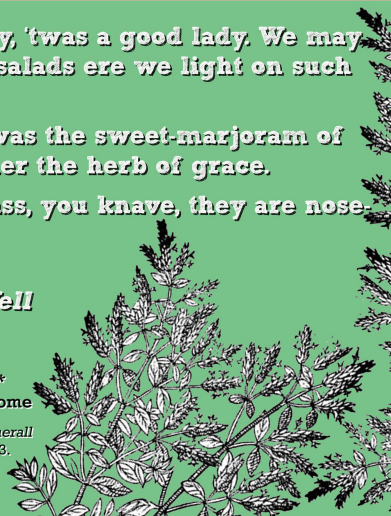
Lafeu They are not grass, you knave, they are nose-  
herbs.

**All's Well That End's Well**  
IV.5.13-19

*Origanum marjorome* \*  
Bastard marjorome

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.

\* Today called *Origanum majorana*, or marjoram



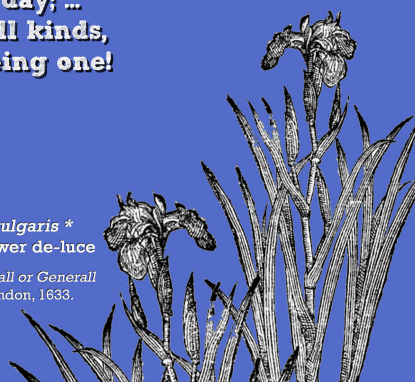
Now, my fair'at friend,  
I would I had some flowers o'th' spring that might  
Become your time of day; ...  
... lilies of all kinds,  
The flower-de-luce being one!

**The Winter's Tale**  
IV.4.112-114, 126-127

*Iris vulgaris* \*  
Flower de-luce

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.

\* Today called *Iris germanica*, or bearded iris



I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where oxslips and the nodding violet grows,  
Quite overcanopied with luscious woodbine,  
With sweet musk-roses, and with eglantine.

**Oberon**  
**A Midsummer Night's Dream**  
II.1.249-252

*Viola martia purpurea multi plex* \*  
The double garden purple violet

*Thymum durium* \*\*  
hard time

Illustrations from John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.

\* Unclearified *Viola* species. \*\* Today called *Thymus vulgaris* or common thyme



I love long life better than figs.

**Antony and Cleopatra**  
I.2.27-28

*Ficus*  
The fig tree

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.

\* Today called *Ficus avellana*, or Hazel



The roses fearfully on thorns did stand,  
One blushing shame, another white despair;  
A third, nor red nor white, had stol'n of both  
**Sonnet 99**

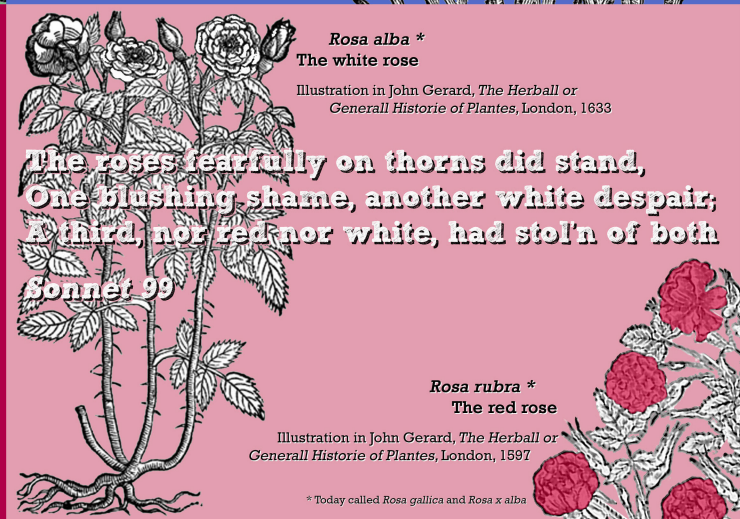
*Rosa alba* \*  
The white rose

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633

*Rosa rubra* \*  
The red rose

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1597

\* Today called *Rosa gallica* and *Rosa x alba*



Her eyes like marigolds had sheathed their light,  
And canopied in darkness sweetly lay  
Till they might open to adorn the day.

**The Rape of Lucrece**  
397-399

*Flos africanus major simplici flore* \*  
the great single French Marigold

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.

\* Today called *Tagetes patula*, or French marigold



Kate like the hazel-twig  
Is straight and slender, and as brown in hue  
As hazel-nuts, and sweeter than the kernels.

**The Taming of the Shrew**  
II.1.248-250

*Corylus sylvestris* \*  
The wild hedge nut

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.

\* Today called *Corylus avellana*, or Hazel



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There's rosemary, that's for remembrance.  
Pray, love, remember.

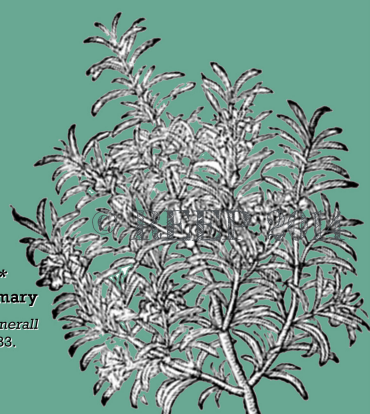
**Ophelia**

**Hamlet**  
IV.5.175-176

*Rosmarinum Coronarium* \*  
Common Rosemary

Illustration in John Gerard, *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*, London, 1633.

\* Today called *Rosmarinus officinalis*, or rosemary



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