

Common name Lady's Mantle

Latin Name *Alchemilla vulgaris*

Family Name Rosaceae

The Common Lady's Mantle has a wide British distribution, but it generally like the colder parts of the Country, and the Dell is in Lancashire!

This is a very green plant including the flowers, but if you have ever seen it with droplets of rain on its leaves you will appreciate how beautiful it is.



The whole plant is clothed with soft hairs which catch the water. The leaves, are large up to, 6 to 8 inches in diameter, are borne on slender stalks, 6 to 18 inches long and are somewhat kidney shaped in general outline, with their margins cut into seven or mostly nine broad, but shallow lobes, finely toothed at the edges. The flowers, which are in bloom from June to August, are numerous and small, only about 1/8 inch in diameter, yellow-green in colour, in loose, divided clusters at the end of the freely-branching flower-stems, each on a short stalk, or pedicle. There are no petals, but it has little bracts.



The common name, Lady's Mantle came about in the Middle Ages when it was associated with the Virgin Mary (hence it is Lady's Mantle, not Ladies' Mantle), as the lobes of the leaves as supposed to resemble the scalloped edges of her mantle.

The generic name *Alchemilla* comes from the word alchemy due to the dewdrops that lie so easily in its leaves, It was said that these dewdrops were used in lots of magical potions.

### What it was used for in the past

Lady's mantle is said to have 'a very drying and binding character' and therefore it was used to dry out wounds.

### Sources

[http://www.history.uk.com/herb\\_garden/index.php?archive=3](http://www.history.uk.com/herb_garden/index.php?archive=3)  
<http://www.botanical.com/>