

## WORMWOOD, RUSSIAN



### *Artemisia gmelinii*

[ar-te-MIZ-ee-uh g-mel-IN-ee-eye]  
(syn *Artemisia sacrorum*)

**Family:** Compositae

**Names:** Gmelin's wormwood

**Description:** Perennial shrub with several, erect, woody, strigose, brownish-grey, upright, 50-100 cm tall, finely sulcate stems from woody, upright 2.5-3 cm thick rootstock. Leaves glabrous, green and punctate glandular above, densely appressed albescent arachnoid below; basal petiolate, lamina oblong-ovate.

**Cultivation:** Easily grown in a well-drained circumneutral or slightly alkaline loamy soil, preferring a warm sunny dry position. Established plants are drought tolerant. Plants are longer lived, more hardy and more aromatic when they are grown in a poor dry soil. Members of this genus are rarely if ever troubled by browsing deer. Surface sow seed from late winter to early summer in a greenhouse, making sure that the compost does not dry out. When large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and

grow them on in the greenhouse for their first winter. Plant out in late spring or early summer. Division in spring or autumn. Basal cuttings in late spring. Harvest the young shoots when about 10 - 15cm long, pot up in a lightly shaded position in a greenhouse or cold frame and plant them out when well rooted. Very easy.

**Other Uses:** The plant yields 1% essential oil, which contains 19% essential oil, 6% camphor.

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