

a beautiful and permanent green. The small nettle (*Urtica urens*) and the great nettle (*Urtica dioica*), introduced European species, are abundant in America. Whatever gives nettles their stinging power is dissipated by boiling. Their high value as food for swine, poultry, and particularly for turkeys, is well known to the peasantry of many countries; the great nettle is cultivated in Sweden for fodder. The seeds are fed to poultry. The stalks and leaves of nettles are employed in some parts of England for the manufacture of a light kind of beer, called nettle beer. The bast fibre of nettles is used for textile purposes. Yarn and cloth, both of the coarsest and finest descriptions, can be made of it. The fibre of *Urtica dioica*, used by the ancient Egyptians, is still employed in Piedmont and other countries. When wanted for fibre, the plant is cut in midsummer and treated like hemp. The names "nettle yarn" and "nettle cloth" are, however, now commonly given in most parts of Europe to particular linen and cotton fabrics. The fibre of *Urtica cannabina*, a native of the south of Siberia and other middle parts of Asia, is much used, and from other species both fine lace and strong ropes can be manufactured. The fibre of *Urtica japonica*, or *Pouzolzia viminea*, is much used in Japan, and also that of *Urtica argentea*, or *Pipturus argenteus*, in the South Sea islands, and of *Urtica gracilis* in Canada. *Urtica tuberosa*, or *Pouzolzia tuberosa*, produces nutritious tubers, which are eaten in India raw, boiled, or roasted. Australia produces a magnificent tree nettle, *Laportea gigas*, abundant in some parts of New South Wales, which sometimes reaches a height of 140 feet, with a trunk of great thickness and very large green leaves which, when young, sting violently. In some places it forms scrub forests, and its stinging leaves form a great impediment to the traveler. The common nettle tree of the United States is a species of *Celtis* (see HACKBERRY); the name "dead nettle" is given to certain species of *Lamium*, a genus of the family Labiatae. *Bahmeria nivea*, often called false nettle, supplies China grass or ramie (q.v.).

NETTLE (AS. *neteles*, *netle*, OHG. *nezzila*, *nezila*, dim. of *nazza*, nettle, Ger. *Nessel*, Ir. *nenaid*, nettle, probably connected with OPrus. *noatis*, Lith. *noterė*, Lett. *nātres*, Gk. *ἀδικη*, *adikē*, nettle). A common name of *Urtica*, a genus of plants of the family Urticaceae having unisexual flowers. The species are annual or perennial herbs with occasionally shrubby bases, many of them covered with stinging hairs, which emit an acrid juice and pierce the skin when touched, often causing much inflammation and pain; when grasped in such a way as to press the hairs to the stem, no stinging ensues. The species of a number of distinct genera were formerly included in the genus, especially those having stinging hairs, as *Laportea*, *Pipturus*, and *Pouzolzia*. Some of these are shrubs or even trees, the giant nettle tree of Australia attaining great size. The sting of East Indian species is much more severe than that of European and American species. *Urtica crenulata*, or *Laportea crenulata*, is said to produce a sensation similar to the continual application of a hot iron. The roots of nettles, boiled in alum, afford a yellow dye, and the juice of the stalk and leaves has been used to dye woolen stuffs