

Comparison of similar looking plants

Edible plants, Herbs and Spices (3) –

Eupatorium capillifolium (Dog Fennel) and *Anethum graveolens* (Dill)



Eupatorium capilifolium and *Anethum graveolens*

Scientific Name: *Eupatorium capilifolium*

Common Name: False Dill, Dog Fennel

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)



Eupatorium capilifolium:

This is a fast growing species that can reach 2m in height.

In Singapore and Malaysia, this species is often mistaken for Dill, (*Anethum graveolens*), a popular culinary herb.

Some studies have indicated that *Eupatorium capilifolium* contains ¹pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which is known to be a liver toxin. It can also affect livestock, and thus should not be consumed as a culinary substitute for the true dill.

Reference:

Stegelmeier, B.L., Gardner, D.R. and Davis, Z.T. (2009). Livestock poisoning with Pyrrolizidine-Alkaloid containing Plants (Senecio, Cynoglossum, Amsinckia, Heliorepium nd Echium spp.) *Rangelands* 31(1):35-37

Scientific Name: *Anethum graveolens*

Common Name: Dill

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot Family)



Anethum graveolens:

This herbaceous species grows to 1.5m in height, and prefers growing in areas with cooler temperatures (16-18°C). In tropical areas, it is occasionally cultivated in the highlands/mountainous areas).

The leaves and shoots can be eaten raw, or used to flavour food.

Eupatorium capilifolium and *Anethum graveolens*



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Eupatorium capilifolium (Dog Fennel):

The simple leaves are bright green, dissected, and are attached along the main stem. The dead leaves tend to remain on the stem unless they are removed



Anethum graveolens (Dill):

The compound leaves are bluish – greyish green, and the leaf stalks have an expanded base that sheaths the stem. The leaflets are attached to leaf stalk at well spaced out intervals

Eupatorium capillifolium* and *Anethum graveolens



***Eupatorium capillifolium* (Dog Fennel):**

The flower heads are small and white and carried on a long, plume like inflorescence



***Anethum graveolens* (Dill):**

The small yellow flowers are carried on an umbel (a flat-topped inflorescence)