

Comparison of similar looking plants

Edible plants, Herbs and Spices (II) –

Cosmos caudatus (Ulam Raja) and *Artemisia vulgaris*
(Mugwort)



Cosmos caudatus and *Artemisia vulgaris*

Scientific Name: *Cosmos caudatus*

Common Name: Ulam Raja

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)



Cosmos caudatus:

This species grows up to 3m in height, and gives out a resinous smell when bruised.

The young shoots are eaten raw, and has a mango like taste.

Scientific Name: *Artemisia vulgaris*

Common Name: Mugwort

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)



Artemisia vulgaris:

This species grows up to 1.5m in height, and emits a 'bitter green' scent when bruised.

The leaves are eaten raw or cooked, and have a bitter taste. The Leaves are also used as a coloring agent for rice dumplings and/or confectioneries in Japan, Korea and parts of China

Cosmos caudatus and *Artemisia vulgaris*



Cosmos caudatus:

The leaves of the are smooth to the touch, without hairs, and are green on the upper and under surface



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Artemisia vulgaris :

The upper surfaces of the leaves are green, hairless to sparsely hairy, and the undersides are white – grey, and softly hairy



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Cosmos caudatus:

The flower heads consists of pale pink – purplish pink ‘petals’ (ray florets) with many yellowish green disk florets in the center



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Artemisia vulgaris:

The flower heads are small, reddish brown, and arranged on a long inflorescence