Comparison of similar looking plants

Edible plants, Herbs and Spices (3) –

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



Eupatorium capilifolium and Anethum graveloens

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 ¹ pyrrolizidine 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.

Scientific Name: Anethum graveolens

Common Name: Dill

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot Family)



Anethum graveolens:

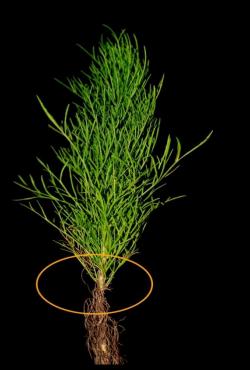
This herbaceous species grows to 1.5m in height, and prefers growing in areas with cooler temperatures (16-18'C). In tropical areas, it is occasionally cultivated in the highlands/ mountainous areas).

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

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

Eupatorium capilifolium and Anethum graveloens





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 capilifolium and Anethum graveloens





Eupatorium capillifolium (Dog Fennel):

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



Anethum graveloens (Dill):

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