

*Erysimum cheiri*

*E. cheiri* is almost certainly the most important species historically and horticulturally speaking. It has been speculated that it came to Britain with Norman stonemasons. However, it is native to the eastern Mediterranean, and it seems to me more likely that it came to Britain with returning crusaders in medieval times. But however and whenever it arrived, it is certainly true that it is often to be seen growing in the lime mortar of ruined medieval castles and ecclesiastical buildings and is the original 'English Wallflower' from which many cultivars are derived.

