



## Mediterranean House

The display pod is designed to act as a stimulus for discussion about some of the plants to be found in this climate zone with **cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers**. These are some background notes to the plants used in the pod, which may help teachers and group leaders in their interpretation of this glasshouse to their pupils.

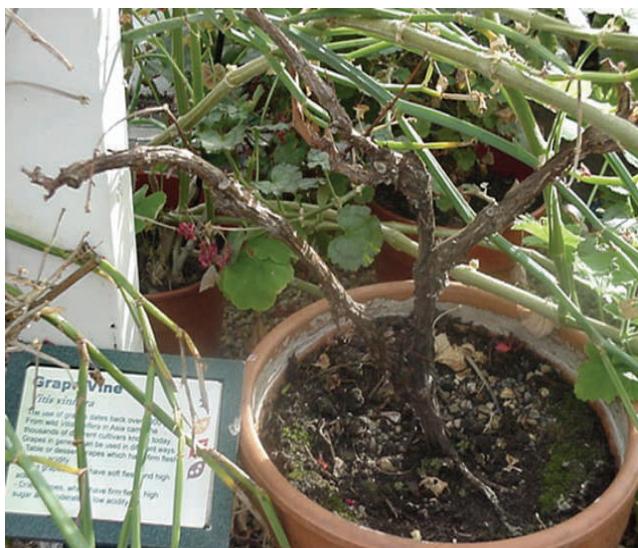


### Cough Mixture

*Glycyrrhiza glabra*



The liquorice plant is related to peas and beans so it is a legume. The word 'liquorice' is derived from the Ancient Greek words for 'sweet root'. Liquorice is often used in medicine to disguise unpleasant flavours and the root can be chewed as a mouth freshener. Popular as an ingredient for sweets such as liquorice allsorts, excessive consumption of liquorice is known to be toxic to the liver!



### Wine

*Vitis vinifera*



This plant is a liana or woody climber that can grow up to 35m tall. For thousands of years, the fruit has been harvested for both medicinal and nutritional value; its history is intimately entwined with the history of wine. 7,000 year old wine storage jars were found in Georgia, USA in 1996.

## Key to symbols



Recreation



House and home



Ornamental



Food and drink



Medicine



## Orange

*Citrus limon*



Lemon juice, which is contained in the bottle of fruit drink in the pod, contains citric acid which makes it very tart. The fruit has been used for centuries; the popular drink lemonade may have originated in medieval Egypt. Christopher Columbus introduced lemon seeds to America in the 15th century. In the 18th century lemon juice was given to sailors to prevent scurvy.



## Cleaner

*Citrus medica*



The Citron is a fragrant fruit but inside it is very dry, containing only a little juice. The fruit can reach 4 to 5kg in weight, starting off green and turning yellow-orange when ripe. Can you smell the lemon scented leaves? Although grown in the Mediterranean today, it is thought to be native to India.



## Perfume

*Citrus aurantium*



This is the 'Bitter Orange' and is used for perfume and as a flavouring. The fruit is used for marmalade and liqueurs such as Grand Marnier. Neroli oil which is distilled from the flowers, smells a bit like bergamot and is used in more than 12% of all modern quality perfumes. It is also used as an essential oil in aromatherapy and massage.