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dictionary

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fen·nel  (fĕn əl)

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n.

1.

a. A Eurasian plant (*Foeniculum vulgare*) in the parsley family, having pinnate leaves and clusters of small yellow flowers grouped in umbels, cultivated for its aromatic seeds and edible stalks.

b. The seeds or stalks of this plant.

2. A variety of fennel whose seeds are used as flavoring. Also called *sweet fennel*.

3. A variety of fennel whose bulbous, celerylike stalks are eaten as a vegetable. Also called *finocchio*, *Florence fennel*.

4. See [giant fennel](#).

[Middle English *fenel*, from Old English *fenol*, from Latin *fēnuculum*, variant of *faeniculum*, diminutive of *faenum*, *fēnum*, hay; see **dhē(i)-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]



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fennel

Foeniculum vulgare

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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