

## FLAX IN FIELDS AND GARDENS

FLAX IN FIELDS (3rd part)  
'*LINUM USITATISSIMUM*'

### USE OF FIELD FLAX

**The long fibres** are used in textiles, **while tow**, (or short fibres) can be used in various composite materials: sports equipment, vehicles, wind turbines, cigarette paper, banknotes ... **shavings**, (woody particles) emerging from the scutching process, are transformed into particle board, boiler fuel, animal litter, mulch for the garden, and other goods.



### PRODUCERS OF FLAX

Quality is the result of the know-how of these people, who are responsible for:

- Selecting which varieties to plant
- Choosing soil quality (loamy and deep soils)
- Sowing in tight rows to obtain finer fibres
- Monitoring growth for 100 days (insects, fungi)
- Flowering for 10 days
- Grubbing up (five weeks after flowering) when the stems have a beautiful blonde colour
- Monitoring flax fields after the fibres are grubbed up and lay on the ground, when they must be flipped for the retting phase that uses micro-organisms and bacteria to dissolve or rot away much of the stem material to facilitate separation of the fibres and straw.
- Scutching: separation of the different parts

Flax will leave for the factory in the form of large round bales

*To be continued*