

***arwīts** Runic: ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ Pronunciation: /'ar.wi:ts/

noun · feminine · consonant stem

Meanings

pea; a pea plant or its edible seed

Etymology

Probably a loan from a pre-Indo-European agricultural substrate. The word is a feminine root noun whose irregular correspondences with Latin *ervum*, Ancient Greek ὄροβος (*órobos*), and especially Ancient Greek ἐρέβινθος (*erébinthos*) favor parallel adaptation of a non-Indo-European crop name rather than inheritance from Proto-Indo-European. Proto-Germanic *-īt- has been compared with pre-Greek -ivθ- and analyzed as a reflex of a substrate suffix *-ṼD- ~ *-VʷD-; the divergent vocalism and w ~ b correspondence provide further support for borrowing (Kroonen 2012b: 242–44; Kroonen 2013: 37; Šorgo 2020: 434, 457–61). More recent work strengthens the comparison with Middle Armenian առնոյտ (*aṙowoyt*) and Proto-Iranian **H(a)rab^(h)anTa-*, (reconstructed from Shughni *rivand*, Roshani *ravand*, and Yazghulami *raván* (Palmér 2025: 227, 261), suggesting related prehistoric agricultural substrate languages across Europe rather than a reconstructible PIE word (Kroonen 2024: 324–27; Thorsø 2024: 346–49).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	arwīts	arwītiz
Acc.	arwītų	arwītunz
Gen.	arwītiz	arwītō
Dat.	arwīti	arwītumaz
Inst.	arwītē	arwītumiz
Voc.	arwīt	arwītiz

Descendants

***arwīt, arwait** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***erwit, *erewit** (Old Dutch)

erwete (Middle Dutch)

erwt (Dutch)

ertjie (Afrikaans)

***arwīt, arwait** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***erit** (Old Frisian)

Aate (Saterland Frisian)

eart (West Frisian)

***arwīt, arwait** (Proto-West Germanic)

arawīz, araweiz, arawez, areweiz, arewez, arewiz, arewurz, ariwez, arwiz, arwuz, erewiz, erit, erivit, eriwiz, erwez, erwiz, harviz, hereviz (Old High German)

erweiz, erbeiz, arwīs, arwīz, areweiz (Middle High German)

Erbse (German)

Arbaiß (Bavarian)

אַרבעס (arbes) (Yiddish)

***arwīt, arwait** (Proto-West Germanic)

erit, eriwit (Old Saxon)

erwete, erwitte, arwete, erwte, erfte, arfte, arvete, ērte (Middle Low German)

Arvte, Arvt (Low German)

ertr (Old Norse)

ært (Danish)

ertur (Faroese)

erta (Icelandic)

ert (Norwegian Bokmål)

ert (Norwegian Nynorsk)

ertr (Old Norse)

ært (Old Swedish)

ärt, ärta (Swedish)

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