

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Adonis*

*Ranunculaceae*

*Adonis* is the Greek name for the plant. In some Greek legends the ‘staining’ of the flower’s colouring is said to be the splashed blood of Adonis. Several Greek classical legends tell how Adonis enjoyed the hunt. Despite pleas from Aphrodite, who had fallen in love with him and feared that he would have a tragic accident, he continued the chase. According to some when eventually he was gored and killed by a bear or a wild boar he was transformed into one of the plants from the *Adonis* genus, while others say they sprang from his blood. Adonis (who was said to have been born of incest between father and daughter) was an agricultural divinity. Another of the legends tells how the gods resolved the wrangling which went on between Aphrodite and Persephone over Adonis (both loved him) by decreeing that Adonis must spend one half of the year on earth and the other half in the Underworld – thus it was believed that he disappeared in the Autumn and reappeared for the Spring rites.