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*Agapanthus africanus*

[Synonyms : *Agapanthus umbellatus*, *Crinum africanum*, *Hyacinthus africanus tuberosus fiore caeruleo umbellato*, *Mauhlia linearis*]

**AFRICAN LILY** is a semi-evergreen perennial. Native to the South African Cape it has small deeper blue centrally-stripped, blue flowers.

It is also known as African blue lily, African love-flower, Agapanthus, Blue African lily, Blue lily of the Nile, Egyptian lily, *Kalokvět africký* (Czech), and Lily of the Nile.

*Africanus* means 'of or from Africa'.

In southern Africa pregnant women of the Mpondo tribe took a daily dose of water in which the plants were being grown in order to ease childbirth.

It is thought that the African lily was introduced to Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Some authorities believe that it first flowered there in either 1679 or 1692 at Hampton Court in England.

Medicinally, the tubers can still be used locally for treating chest disorders, paralysis and some intestinal and heart ailments.