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Allium neapolitanum

[Synonyms : *Allium album*, *Allium candissimum*, *Allium cowanii*, *Allium inodorum*, *Allium lacteum*, *Allium sieberianum*, *Allium sulcatum*, *Nothoscordum inodorum*]

NEAPOLITAN GARLIC is a bulbous plant. Native to southern Europe, to the Mediterranean, North Africa and Turkey, it has shiny fragrant, white flowers.

It is also known as *Aglio* (Italian), *Agrioskortho* (Greek), *Ail d'ornement* (French), *Ajo* (Spanish), *Betléhem* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Bride's onion, Daffodil garlic, Daffodil onion, False garlic, Flowering onion, Guernsey star-of-Bethlehem, *Lauch* (German), Naples garlic, Naples onion, *Napolinlaukka* (Finnish), *Neapel-lök* (Swedish), *Sierui* (Dutch), White garlic, White onion, and Wild garlic.

The flowers are pollinated by bees and insects, and are sweetly fragrant in sunshine.

Warning – this is a potentially poisonous plant if consumed in large quantities for both humans and animals but authorities believe that dogs are particularly susceptible.

Neapolitanum means 'of or from Naples, Italy'.

The leaves can be eaten raw or cooked and authorities recommend them particularly in salads when apparently they have a sweet immediate taste and a fairly strong garlicky after-taste. The small bulbs with their mildly garlic-taste are also edible raw in salads or eaten as a cooked vegetable. On the other hand the flowers, which are also edible and can be eaten raw (particularly in salads) or cooked, are said to have an onion-taste.

Florists, especially in Italy, include neapolitan garlic (which does not smell of garlic) in fresh cut-flower arrangements. The cut flowers are often sold in local markets and sometimes they can be dyed red or greenish-blue.

There are claims that the whole plant will repel moles and insects – and the plant juice has been used as a moth repellent.

Neapolitan garlic is grown as an ornamental plant.

In some parts of North America, where it has been introduced, authorities view neapolitan garlic as an invasive plant.