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*Amaryllis belladonna*

[Synonyms : *Amaryllis rosea*, *Brunsvigia rosa*, *Coburgia belladonna*, *Hippeastrum equestre*]

**BELLADONNA LILY** is a deciduous bulbous perennial. Native to south and south-west Africa (particularly South Africa), it has large rosy-pink to white flowers that have a sweet-fruity scent.

It is also known as *Amaryllis* (Czech), *Amaryllis* (Finnish, German), Barbados lily, *Belladonnalilie* (German), *Belladounnes* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Belles-toutes-nues* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Daffodil lily, *Echte Amaryllis* (German), Jersey lily, *Kapamaryllis* (Swedish), Lily, *Maartlelie* (Afrikaans), March lily, and Naked lady; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of beauty, pride, timidity, and vanity.

Warning – the bulb and seeds are poisonous.

*Belladonna* is Italian meaning ‘beautiful or pretty lady’.

Some authorities mention that belladonna lily was introduced to Britain in 1712 via Portugal.

Bulbs are cultivated especially for the Christmas period in some Western countries when the flowers are a familiar sight among pot plants in florists’ displays – although there are some who believe it is unlucky to have the plant inside the house.

Medicinally, the leaves and petals have been used in North American folk medicine to treat wounds..

It is the birthday flower for 22<sup>nd</sup> February.