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*Anemone hortensis*

[Synonyms : *Anemone stellata*]

**STAR ANEMONE** is a perennial. Native to the Mediterranean (particularly Italy) it has purple, red, or white flowers.

It is also known as *Anemoni* (Maltese), Broad-leaved anemone, *Sasanka hvězdovitá* (Czech), and Spanish marigold.

Warning – the plant is poisonous.

*Hortensis* means ‘of or growing in gardens’.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Century both the Greek physician, Dioscorides and his Roman peer, the celebrated natural historian, Pliny (23-79) declared their faith in therapeutic properties then ascribed to anemone. The former recommended it in external treatments for eye inflammation and ulcers. The latter believed in its healing powers for swollen gums and toothache.

It was introduced to England at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century via the Netherlands.