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Asphodelus fistulosus

[Synonyms : *Asphodelus tenuifolius*]

ONION-LEAVED ASPHODEL is a bulbous annual or perennial. Native to Arabia and the Mediterranean (particularly the Canary Islands, Crete and southern France), it has small, reddish- or green veined, pinkish-white flowers with a brown mid-vein on each petal.

It is also known as Asphodel, Daffodil, *Berwieq zhir* (Maltese), Hollow-stemmed asphodel, *Liten dödslilja* (Swedish), Onion weed, *Piazi* (Punjabi), Pink asphodel, *Pipaffodill* (Swedish), *Pip-afodill* (Swedish), and *Röhriger Affodill* (German).

Fistulosus means ‘hollow, pipe-like or a narrow duct or passage’ with reference to the hollow leaves.

Authorities believe that this was probably the species that was said in Greek mythology to grow in the Elysian Fields on the edge of the Underworld.

The Bedouins eat the bulbs boiled.

In some parts of Australia where onion-leaved asphodel has escaped from gardens where it was growing as an ornamental plant, and where it has become naturalized, it is viewed as an invasive introduction to the Country.