

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Crocus*

*Iridaceae*

*Crocus* is derived from Greek *krokos* (saffron) itself from Greek *kroke* (a thread) or Semitic *karkom* (one of the oldest plant names).

*Crocus sativus* is not the only species in the genus to provide a source of saffron (*Crocus sativus*). Apparently other members of the genus also yield this, particularly *Crocus nudiflorus* and Biberstein's crocus (*Crocus speciosus*) both of which offer an acceptable quality. It is believed by authorities that the former of these two was introduced from the Middle East to north-western Europe (including Britain) over 300 years ago and that it would have flourished more readily than its close relative *Crocus sativus* in the alien northern more rigorous temperate climate.