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Crocus vernus

[Synonyms : *Crocus albiflorus*, *Crocus banaticus*, *Crocus heuffelianus*, *Crocus napolitanus*, *Crocus neapolitanus*, *Crocus purpureus*, *Crocus sativus* var. *vernus*, *Crocus scepusiensis*, *Crocus vernus* var. *neapolitanus*]

SPRING CROCUS is a perennial bulb. Native to central and southern Europe it has white, lilac or purple flowers that are sometimes veined.

It is also known as *Bonte krokus* (Dutch), *Crocus*, *Crocus ornamental* (French), Dutch crocus, *Frühlings-Krokus* (German), *Frühlingsafran* (German), *Krokus* (Norwegian), *Krokus jarní* (Czech), Nottingham crocus, Ornamental crocus, Purple crocus, *Saffrwm y Gwanwyn* (Welsh), *Šafrán jarní* (Czech), *Safran printanier* (French), *Vårkrokus* (Norwegian), *Vårkrokus* (Swedish), *Vårsaffran* (Swedish), and *Zafferano alpino* (Italian); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of ‘abuse not’, good cheer, and youthful gladness.

Vernus means ‘of the Spring (the time of year when the plant flowers)’.

Apart from other references in Greek mythology Homer (8th Century BC), the Greek epic poet, portrays the Spring crocus also as one of the flowers decorating the couch on which Zeus and Hera reclined.

In Roman times the Spring crocus flower was floated decoratively on ornamental streams and in fountains, as well as serving as one of the strewing flowers at banquets.

The Spring crocus (flowering on 14th February) is dedicated to the 3rd Century martyr, St. Valentine.

To dream of the Spring crocus is said to indicate a fresh start.

It is the birthday flower for 16th April.