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Gagea bohemica

[Synonyms : *Gagea bohemica* subsp. *zauschneri*, *Gagea smyrnaea*, *Gagea szovitsii*]

EARLY STAR-OF-BETHLEHEM is a bulbous perennial. Native to central and southern Europe it has small greenish-tinged beneath, shiny yellow fading to white flowers.

It is also known as Bohemian gagea, *Křivatec český* (Czech), *Krivec* (Slovak), and Welsh star-of-Bethlehem.

In Britain early star-of-Bethlehem is considered to be endangered in the wild and is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Bohemica means ‘of or from Bohemia (once western Czechoslovakia now part of the Czech Republic)’.

Authorities believe that although it is not native to Britain it is likely that early star-of-Bethlehem has been flowering there for over 5,000 years. Apparently a relic population of them was found in the 1990s in the Welsh mountains.