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*Jasminum*

*Oleaceae*

*Jasminum* is derived from a Persian name *yasmin* or *yasamin* for these plants.

Literature has embraced jasmine as much as any other flower – but so often it is not immediately apparent which species the poet had in mind. The English son of an impoverished clergyman, Charles Churchill (1731-64) particularly known for his satirical poetry, wrote *Perfume of Jasmine*.

The jasmine, with which the queen of flowers,  
To charm her god, adorns his favourite bowers;  
Which brides, by the plain hand of neatness drest, –  
Unenvied rival! – wear upon the breast;  
Sweet as the incense of the morn, and chaste  
As the pure zone which circles Dian's waist.

Then the widely known English poet, William Cowper (1731-1800) wrote of *The Jasmine*

The jasmine throwing wide her elegant sweets,  
The deep dark green of whose unvarnished leaf  
Makes more conspicuous and illumines more  
The bright profusion of her scattered stars.

In the language of flowers it is said to be a symbol of amiability (white), divine hope (yellow), elegance (yellow), grace (yellow), happiness (yellow), heavenly felicity (yellow), modesty (yellow), and separation (pinkish red).