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*Narcissus*

*Amaryllidaceae*

[*Liliaceae*]

*Narcissus* is, for some authorities, the name of a beautiful boy in Greek legend. One version of the story tells how a nymph Echo fell in love with Narcissus shortly before she was deprived of the gift of speech and condemned to repeat only the last syllable of words she heard. Thus when Narcissus rejected her she was unable to declare her love and she died of a broken heart. As punishment for his treatment of her the gods made Narcissus dote on his own image and when eventually he died from languor he was transformed into a narcissus. For other authorities *Narcissus* is derived from Greek *narcao* (to be numb) with reference to its poisonous properties and its association with death and insanity, or from an ancient Persian word.

Authorities note that all species in this genus are potentially poisonous for humans and animals.