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Pancretium maritimum

[Synonyms : *Pancretium carolinianum*]

SEA DAFFODIL is semi-evergreen bulbous perennial. Native to the Mediterranean and Turkey it has fragrant white flowers with green-striped backs and with prominent stamens.

It is also known as *Krinos tis thálassas* (Greek), *Kumzambaği* (Turkish), *Lír přímořský* (Czech), Mediterranean lily, *Pankrazju salvagg* (Maltese), Sea lily, and Sea pancretium.

The flowers usually open in the evening.

Warning – the bulbs are potentially poisonous.

Maritimum is Latin (of the sea) meaning ‘coastal, or of the sea or seaside’.

According to the celebrated Greek philosopher, Theophrastus (c.372-c.287 BC) hairs from the inside of the seed coating were woven to make felt shoes and clothing.

Authorities believe that sea daffodil was introduced to Britain in 1759.

Medicinally, it has been used to treat fluid retention.