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Zinnia elegans

[Synonyms : *Zinnia dahliiflora*, *Zinnia gracillima*]

ZINNIA (English, Swedish) is an annual. Native to Mexico it has daisy-like heads of purple to lilac-pink flowers.

It is also known as *Carolina* (Guatemalan), Cut and come again, *Yangi dunyā* (Turkish), Youth and age, and Youth-and-old-age; and in flower language it is said to be a symbol of ‘thoughts of absent friends’.

It has parented many colourful cultivated varieties.

Elegans is Latin (choice, fine, neat) meaning ‘elegant’.

Authorities believe that zinnia was introduced to Britain in 1796.

The flowers have been commemorated in poetry anonymously.

The zinnia’s solitary flower,
Which blooms in forests lone and deep,
Are like the visions fair and bright,
That faithful, absent hearts will keep.