

Crocus cartwrightianus

Flowering Time	Autumn
Distribution	Greece
Native Climate	Mediterranean
Wild Habitat	Rocky hillsides, in scrub or thin woodland
Distinctive Features	Three long bright red style branches. Flowers stay open at night. Finely fibrous corm tunic, reticulated
Closest Relatives	Crocus oreoreticus ; Crocus moabiticus
Cultivation Requirements	Warm dryish summer rest. Winter protection best away from native region.
Availability	Usually available from specialist bulb suppliers. White form in commerce

Very variable in flower colour and markings, almost all forms are very attractive when in flower. The style branches can be harvested for use as saffron. It is thought that [Crocus sativus](#) (cultivated for saffron) is a selection of *Crocus cartwrightianus*. [Crocus tournefortii](#) is the only other species whose flowers remain open at night. It is likely that these two, which have an overlapping distribution are pollinated by night flying insects (moths?).



