

Crocus laevigatus

Flowering Time	Autumn/Winter/Early Spring
Distribution	Greece (including Cyclades islands); Crete
Native Climate	Mediterranean
Wild Habitat	Stony places, thin scrub
Distinctive Features	Flowers lilac or white usually with a dark vein or veins. Style much divided. Corm tunic coriaceous, older layers splitting into long pointed tipped teeth
Closest Relatives	Crocus boryi ; Crocus tournefortii
Cultivation Requirements	Hardy (in UK). Tolerant of summer moisture.* (Winter flowers best appreciated under glass)
Availability	Widely available from specialist bulb suppliers and seed lists

*Cretan forms (usually small flowered often white with very prominent red style) are less successful in the garden benefiting from warm, drier summer rest.

Very variable this species has populations on many of the Greek islands. While most forms are autumn flowering, some of these populations flower as late as early April, a characteristic that is maintained in cultivation. Many of the autumn flowering forms survive garden conditions in the UK giving some interest at a season when there are few flowers in the garden. Being small they are best appreciated in a sheltered spot, perhaps a trough or raised bed close to the house.



