

# Crocus pallasii pallasii

Flowering Time	Autumn
Distribution	Macedonia; S Serbia; S & E Bulgaria; Crimea; Aegean Islands; Lebanon; Israel; Turkey
Native Climate	Mediterranean
Wild Habitat	Stony or rocky slopes, often in thin scrub
Distinctive Features	Flowers in shades of lilac, often slightly veined darker. Corm tunic finely netted fibres
Closest Relatives	<a href="#">Crocus pallasii dispathaceus</a> ; <a href="#">Crocus pallasii haussknechtii</a> ; <a href="#">Crocus pallasii turcicus</a>
Cultivation Requirements	Year round protection needed. Warm, dry summer rest best
Availability	Specialist bulb suppliers

A member of the saffron group, series *Crocus*, with common features being autumn flowers; yellow anthers and a style dividing into three distinct branches. While *Crocus sativus* (saffron crocus) has very long style branches *Crocus pallasii* has the shortest style in this group. (See picture below.) The style divides above the base of the anthers, the related *Crocus cartwrightianus* has a style which divides well below the base of the anthers almost in the throat of the flower, a useful distinction.

The most widespread and variable subspecies of *Crocus pallasii*. Most forms have rather insignificant flowers albeit plentifully produced.



A typical *Crocus pallasii* flower showing style with three short red branches.



Corm showing long fibrous neck, made up of old leaf bases, which is a distinctive feature of *Crocus pallasii*.