

Crocus sativus

Flowering Time	Autumn
Distribution	Not known as a wild plant
Native Climate	N/a
Wild Habitat	N/a
Distinctive Features	Large purple/lilac flower with three very long, red style branches. Corm tunic finely netted fibres
Closest Relatives	Crocus cartwrightianus
Cultivation Requirements	Warm, dry summer rest needed for flowering. Deep planting and rich soil (or feeding) assist in building and maintaining flowering size corms
Availability	Widely available in commerce

Believed to have been an ancient selection from *Crocus cartwrightianus*, [this is the plant cultivated for its long red style branches used in cookery.](#)



Horticultural *Crocus sativus*.



Horticultural clone growing in a bulb frame in the UK.



Crocus sativus style branches – Saffron as harvested by Saffron grower Olivier Tetart in the Lot region of France



Tetart Saffron Crocus.
Lower two photographs © Olivier Tetart