

Crocus versicolor

Flowering Time	Spring
Distribution	SE France; adjacent NW Italy
Native Climate	Mediterranean
Wild Habitat	Stony and grassy places and in open woodland over limestone
Distinctive Features	Flower white, lilac, and purple, often with external stripes. Corm tunic membranous ageing to parallel fibres
Closest Relatives	Crocus imperati Crocus malyi
Cultivation Requirements	Easily grown in gardens given well drained soil. Tolerant of summer moisture
Availability	Specialist bulb suppliers. Clone 'Picturatus' (white with purple stripes) is widely commonly offered

Once very widely grown with many named cultivars, today only 'Picturatus' is widely available.

Crocus malyi has almost uniformly white flowers which lack outer stripes and also differs in some leaf characteristics. *Crocus imperati* usually has much more richly lilac coloured flowers and 'greener' leaves – those of *Crocus versicolor* are somewhat grey-green.

Several forms are illustrated below in an attempt to illustrate the variable nature of this species.



Form close to cultivar 'Picturatus'

