

e - articles



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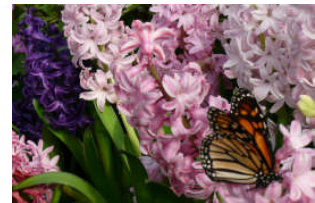
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Heavenly Hyacinths



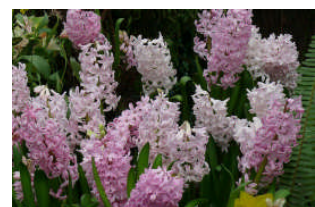
In Greek Mythology Hyacinthus was a youth caught in a love triangle between Apollo (God of beauty and Art) and Zephyrus (The West Wind). When Hyacinthus gave his entire affection to Apollo, Zephyrus became insanely jealous and killed the youth. But the other Gods sided with Apollo and placed a spell over the slain boy so that love would prevail.

From the bloody ground sprang the hyacinth which to this day freely gives the world fragrance and beauty in honour of his beloved Apollo. The Hyacinths are members of the lily family mostly native to the Mediterranean region. Several related genus make up the group of bulbs commonly known as Hyacinths. These include the



Hyacinthus orientalis, the Roman Hyacinth, looks very much like a spindly version of the much larger Dutch or Garden Hyacinth. From this variable wild species have come most of the large, fragrant Dutch hybrids commonly grown today. The Roman Hyacinth is quite hardy, multiplies quickly in a wide variety of situations and naturalizes beautifully under trees.

All it's hybrid forms, the Dutch Hyacinths, are much more delicate creatures especially created by commercial growers for maximum blooming size. Over the past 200 years there have been hundreds of named hybrids in single and double forms with white, blue, yellow, orange, red, lavender, purple and multi-coloured flowers.



The bulbs produce dense spikes of waxy, tubular, bell-shaped flowers with a delicious fragrance. Flowering from late winter through early spring, they are excellent for bedding, borders, or planted in clumps. Plant 15cm apart and 5-10cm deep in an open, sunny, freely draining site.