

CROCUS IMPERATI IMPERATI

Flowering Time	Winter and Early Spring
Distribution	W. Italy (South from Naples); Capri
Native Climate	Mediterranean
Wild Habitat	Short turf and thin woodland
Distinctive Features	Lilac flowers with outside of outer petals buff, marked with dark purple. Corm tunic parallel fibres
Closest Relatives	<i>Crocus versicolor</i>
Cultivation Requirements	Well drained soil in sun. (Grown without protection in UK gardens given these conditions)
Availability	Some specialist bulb and seed suppliers

Differentiated from subspecies *suaveolens* by having a bract and bracteole. (Subspecies *suaveolens* lacks a bracteole.) In the pictures below bract and bracteole are clearly visible in some of the flowers while the ssp *suaveolens* flower has just the bract and no sign of bracteole.





Four forms of *crocus imperati imperati*. The central flower clearly displays both bract and bracteole either side of the flower tube at bottom of picture. Far right flower is from subspecies *suaveolens*.



Four forms of *crocus imperati imperati*. Far left flower is from subspecies *suaveolens*



Crocus imperati White form



Parallel fibrous corm tunics with fine netting near the top.