

Tale from the Garden!

Anemone blanda (Grecian Windflower) is a rewarding little plant that can easily provide a great deal of pleasure! Offering dabs of bright colours in mid-spring, mounds of abundant daisy-like flowers show off in shades of white, blue & pink over a finely cut fern-like foliage. These daisies are a delight & seem to last for weeks. Ideal to plant in quantity along paths & borders, they can form a lovely colourful mat, especially under or around woody trees or shrubs that are still bare during the time of the anemone's flowering period. For sheer spring joy, why not plant a few!

This herbaceous low spreading perennial originates from the rocky slopes of the Eastern Mediterranean. The common name windflower, is termed so, because the flower heads turn away from any breeze.



The name anemone is derived from Greek which means "windflower." The name comes from the fact that the delicate flowers are blown open by the wind, which in turn blows away the dead petals as well. Their slender, sturdy stems tremble in the breeze but don't break

According to Greek mythology, anemones sprang out of the tears of Aphrodite while she was mourning the death of her lover, Adonis. Adonis was killed by the gods due to their jealousy over his love affair with the beautiful goddess of love. The red anemone symbolizes death or the act of forsaken love. While Aphrodite was crying, Adonis shed blood on the anemones that came from her tears and stained them red.

Anemones are often depicted in various paintings by Impressionist painters including Matisse and Monet, who had deep appreciations for nature and flowers. A few of Matisse's most famous paintings that include anemones are: 'Annelies', 'White Tulips and Anemones', 'Purple Robe and Anemones' and 'Vase of Anemones'.

In Christianity, red anemones are often depicted in images of the Crucifixion or alongside the Virgin Mary as she mourns the death of Christ. It is said that the red anemones that are included in these paintings symbolize the blood that Christ shed at the crucifixion.

Despite its delicate beauty, the anemone has developed a mixed set of meanings depending on the culture viewing the flower. Some see it as protection against disease, while others feel the opposite way and warn against it as an omen of impending illness.

The Greek myths lend the Anemone flower dual meanings of the arrival of spring breezes and the loss of a loved one to death. The Victorians took a slightly different slant on the loss embodied by the flower and used it to represent a forsaken love of any kind in their intricate Language of the Flowers. Chinese and Egyptian cultures considered it a symbol of illness because of the colouring, while European peasants carried them to ward off disease. The flower's natural reaction of closing up at night and opening for the morning means it symbolizes anticipation for something soon to arrive. It's a symbol of bad luck to many Eastern cultures, but Westerners tend to see it as a protection against evil and ill luck instead.

The most significant anemone flower meaning is anticipation. This is because the anemone flowers close up at night and open back up in the morning. Due to its wild nature, the flower specifically symbolizes relaxation and serves as a reminder to enjoy the moment in order to take in opportunities at the right time.

During the last few months, we all have experienced an uncertain, stressful and slightly miserable time. With everything that's been going in the world, we may well have, in some ways, forgotten to appreciate the true meaning of Lent and all the great things that come at the end of the 40 days. Lent should be a time for reflection, prayer and observance and should take us away from the day-to-day busy-ness of life. We need to take time to think not about our own challenges but about the sacrifice that Jesus made and all the wonderful things that come during this period of reflection. Throughout Lent, the days become longer and lighter, the climate becomes warmer and new life appears around us. Lent should excite us and remind us to enjoy the anticipation of awaiting new life. Jesus sacrificed himself and his life so that we could receive a new breath of life, in the form of a saviour. It can be hard to resist the temptation of giving in to the stresses and anxieties that every-day life presents, as well as the strain of our current circumstances, but we must keep in mind the anticipation of the welcoming of our saviour and the gift that he gave us in sacrificing his life.

I hope Lent continues to be a time of new growth for us all, even in this difficult time. Young and old, we can grow together to find a common ground & provide a fruitful and inclusive faith community for all.

The Anemone Flower's Message Is...

Look forward to the future and don't forsake the ones you love. Something new is always around the corner, no matter how dark things might look right now.