

Fritillaria meleagris L.

Fritillary

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Liliaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

Habit

Bulbous perennial herb.

Habitat

Damp, sometimes winter-flooded, neutral grasslands, usually those managed for hay with aftermath grazing. Frequently planted in other grassland habitats and sometimes becomes naturalised. Lowland.

Reasons for decline

Habitat destruction.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	Suffolk	6	
	Norfolk	2	
	Staffordshire	1	
	Warwickshire	1	
	Herefordshire	1	
	Huntingdonshire	1	
	E Gloucestershire	1	
	N Wiltshire	7	
	Oxfordshire	1	
	Berkshire	9	
	Buckinghamshire	2	

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Roamer House
- 2 Cambridge University Botanic Garden
- 3 Mark Hall Arboretum
- 4 RHS Hyde Hall
- 5 Writtle College
- 6 University of Hertfordshire
- 7 University of Oxford Botanic Garden
- 8 The Harris Garden
- 9 Windsor, The Savill & Valley Gardens
- 10 Akely Wood Farmhouse
- 11 Cliveden (NT)
- 12 University of B'ham Botanic Garden, Winterbourne
- 13 B'ham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses, Westbourne

Gardens with specialisation on genus *Fritillaria*

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Seed - best sown as soon as ripe in a cold frame, it should germinate in the spring. Protect from frost. Stored seed should be sown as soon as possible and can take a year or more to germinate. Sow the seed quite thinly to avoid the need to prick out the seedlings. Once they have germinated, give them an occasional liquid feed to ensure that they do not suffer mineral deficiency. Once they die down at the end of their second growing season, divide up the small bulbs, planting 2 - 3 to an 8cm deep pot. Grow them on for at least another year in light shade in the greenhouse before planting them out whilst dormant. Division of offsets in August. The larger bulbs can be planted out direct into their permanent positions, but it is best to pot up the smaller bulbs and grow them on in a cold frame for a year before planting them out in the autumn. Bulb scales.

- Cultivation

Prefers a moist non-acid soil and a sunny position. Succeeds in any soil, preferring a light soil with plenty of humus. Succeeds in sun or light shade. Grows well in short turf. A very ornamental plant, it often self-sows when in a suitable position. Rabbits are very fond of this plant and will destroy it wholesale if given the opportunity. A good plant for the spring meadow. The flowers are very attractive to bees. Plants should not be allowed to dry out in the summer.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

Designated LBAP Areas sites with records for *Fritillaria meleagris* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Habitat Management

Protected sites with records for *Fritillaria meleagris* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- Plants For A Future database: http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Fritillaria+meleagris&CAN=LATIND