

## Pulsatilla

The genus *Pulsatilla* contains about 40 species of herbaceous perennial plants native to meadows and prairies of North America, Europe, and Asia. Derived from the Hebrew word for Passover, "pasakh", the common name pasque flower refers to the Easter (Passover) flowering period, in the spring.[2][3] Common names include pasque flower (or pasqueflower), wind flower, prairie crocus, Easter flower, and meadow anemone. Several species are valued ornamentals because of their finely-dissected leaves, solitary bell-shaped flowers, and plumed seed heads. The showy part of the flower consists of sepals, not petals.

The genus *Pulsatilla* was first formally named in 1754 by the English botanist Philip Miller. The type species is *Pulsatilla vulgaris*[4], the European pasque flower.

It is sometimes considered a subgenus under the genus *Anemone* or as an informally named "group" within *Anemone* subg. *Anemone* sect. *Pulsatilloides*. [5]

As of April 2020[update], Kew's Plants of the World Online lists 42 species in the genus *Pulsatilla*: [1]

Plants of the World Online lists ten named hybrids: [1]

*Pulsatilla nuttalliana* (as the synonym *P. patens*) is the provincial flower of Manitoba, Canada [6] and (as the synonym *P. hirsutissima*) the state flower of the US state of South Dakota. [7] *Pulsatilla vulgaris* is the County flower for both Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire in England. [8] *Pulsatilla vernalis* is the county flower of Oppland, Norway. The UK has introduced the UK biodiversity action plan to address the 49% decline in wild *Pulsatilla* species. [2]

*Pulsatilla* is a toxic plant. Misuse can lead to diarrhea, vomiting and convulsions, [9] hypotension, and coma. [10] It has been used as a medicine by Native Americans for centuries. Blackfoot Indians used it to induce abortions and childbirth. *Pulsatilla* should not be taken during pregnancy nor during lactation. [11]

Extracts of *Pulsatilla* have been used to treat reproductive problems such as premenstrual syndrome and epididymitis. [11] Additional applications of plant extracts include uses as a sedative and for treating coughs. [11] It is also used in the field of homeopathy. [11]

