

March 2021

Pasqueflower, *Pulsatilla vulgaris* L.

From the Ranunculaceae family

The pasque flower is a perennial, herbaceous plant. It flowers from March to May with blue or reddish-purple flowers and bright yellow stamens. The hairiness of the petals is striking. The plant grows to a height of 5-40cm.

Chemical compounds are Protoanemonin (a lactone that can cause irritation to the skin and mucous membranes on contact), ranunculin, saponins, resins and tannins.

The whole plant is poisonous, also for animals. Grazing animals avoid it.

The true pasque flower prefers dry, warm, calcareous ground.

In Austria, the true pasque flower is found on semi-arid grasslands in Upper and Lower Austria.

In eastern Austria one finds *Pulsatilla grandis*, a species with somewhat larger flowers. For example, in the landscape conservation area "Perchtoldsdorfer Heide" you can admire them in spring. The pasque flower is a protected species.

Because of their early flowering and low requirements, cultivated forms of *Pulsatilla vulgaris* are popular as garden plants. The location should be full sun and water-permeable. Waterlogging should be avoided at all costs. The plant needs calcareous soil. It is suitable for rock gardens and dry stone walls. The plant should only be handled with gloves due to its toxicity.

