

May 2022

Grass Lily, *Ornithogalum umbellatum* L.

from the Asparagaceae family (Asparagus family)

The grass lily is a perennial herbaceous plant, the parts of the plant above ground retract by summer. The bulb remains in the soil as a perenating organ. The basal leaves are up to 6 millimetres wide, parallel-veined and show a white central stripe. They are already fully developed at flowering time and up to 20 cm long. The grass lily shows its white, star-shaped flowers from April to June, these are grouped into a short umbrella raceme. The flowers consist of 6 white petals with a green central stripe on the underside. The tepals enclose the ovary and the stamens.

The bulb in particular is poisonous, which is why the grass lily is also known as gardener's death.

The grass lily can be found along roadsides, in vineyards and on dry, fresh meadows. It is rather rare, but where it grows it can be found in large numbers.

For the garden, you can buy bulbs of the grass lily and plant them under bushes and shrubs in autumn. If it feels at home, it will spread over the years.

