

Botanical Name: Ornithogalum arabicum

Common Name: Star of Bethlehem

Type of Plant: monocot: perennial (bulb) Family Liliaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Clumps of slender, floppy grasslike leaves; white flowers  
above leaves have shiny black pistils in center

Height to 2 ft Spread to 1 ft. Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred

Soil prefers a well-drained soil

Hardiness Hardy (zones 5-24)

Morphology:

Leaves highly variable leaves, ranging from very narrow and reed-  
like to strap-like and floppy; leaves to 2 ft. long, 1" wide, blue-green color

Flowers white, fragrant, to 1" across with black pistil in center; on  
well-established plants, flowers will appear in racemes

Fruit 3-valved capsule

Propagation: seed, division

Usage: prized container plant for fragrant flowers and for cut flowers  
good in mass plantings, mixed borders, with annuals and other bulbs

Landscape Care:

Watering takes average watering; can tolerate long dry periods when  
foliage has died back

Fertilizing high phosphorus fertilizer in spring

Pruning remove dead leaves after plant has died back (summer)

Pests/Diseases none major

Other plant, bulb and flowers are poisonous

Origin: Mediterranean region