

February 2021

Winter Aconite, *Eranthis hyemalis* (L.) SALISB

From the Ranunculaceae family

A perennial herbaceous plant, the parts of the plant above ground retract by summer. The winter bulb flowers in rich yellow from February to March. It is an early pollen supplier for bees, the nectar has a sugar content of up to 70%.

Chemical compounds are glycosides and eranthin A and B.

The whole plant is poisonous (degree of danger: highly poisonous ++), the tuber is particularly poisonous. The Dutch name “winter aconiet” indicates the relationship to the highly toxic genus aconite (*Aconitum*).

The plant can reach a height of 5-20cm and can be found in damp deciduous forests, bushes and vineyards.

In the garden, winter aconite prefers nutrient-rich soil, semi-shady locations, such as under deciduous trees, are ideal. The winter aconite does not tolerate drought or waterlogging.

The tubers are laid in autumn and kept moist. If the winter aconite feels at home in its habitat, it can form real carpets in the garden over the years. It also reproduces by seed. Older plants can be propagated by separating the bulbs.

