



Iberis semperflorens

Iberis semperflorens L. a species of plant in the family *Brassicaceae* (*Brassicaceae* Burnett). It occurs endemically in Italy.

Geographical distribution

It grows endemic in Sicily and the southern part of the Apennine Peninsula

Morphology

Sort

Evergreen shrub with perennial. Growing up to 80 m in height, although according to other sources it reaches 15 cm in height and 30-38 cm in width.

Leaves

Spoon-shaped, dark green, 30-70 mm long.

Flowers

Collected in baldachogronach . They measure 3-5 cm in diameter. They have a white color. They give off a smell.

Similar species

The plant is similar to the evergreen (*Iberis sempervirens* L.) but clearly differs in the flowering period.

Biology and ecology

It grows on the coast, on cliffs , with shady rock crevices. Occurs at an altitude of up to 1500 m above sea level. Blooms from November to March, while according to other sources from October /

November to April. It prefers a calcareous substrate. It grows best on soils ranging from slightly acidic to slightly alkaline (6.1-7.8 pH). Occurs in freezing zones from 4a to 8b.

The species *I. semperflorens* has been relatively recently used for commercial purposes as a flowering potted plant. In the summer of 2013, spots and rings were found on the leaves of some potted plants grown in a greenhouse in the city of Albenga in the north-west of Italy. As a result of the conducted tests it was proved that the cause of this is tomato brown pepper virus . This new finding suggests that *I. semperflorens* may be a natural host for this virus and this species may play a role as a virus reservoir in nature.

Application

Due to the number of inflorescences, long flowering time and good adaptation to cultivation, the species is used as a potted decorative plant, especially on the Italian market. There are no detailed research results on the cultivation of this species. It was found that the seeds of this plant germinate best at 20 ° C in full sunlight.