

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910785558303321
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Titolo	Gods and goddesses in the garden [[electronic resource] ] : Greco-Roman mythology and the scientific names of plants // Peter Bernhardt
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Brunswick, N.J., : Rutgers University Press, c2008
ISBN	1-282-27275-6 9786613815156 0-8135-4472-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (262 p.)
Disciplina	580.1/4
Soggetti	Plants Plants - Mythology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 209-215) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface: The Face in the Flower -- Acknowledgments -- Disclaimer -- Chapter 1. In the Cyclop's Orchard -- Chapter 2. Constructing a Centaur -- Chapter 3. Mother Earth and Her Children -- Chapter 4. The Triumph of Zeus -- Chapter 5. The Gods of Olympus -- Chapter 6. Mortal Monarchs and Monsters -- Chapter 7. Troy and Its Aftermath -- Epilogue: A Plant for Persephone? -- Glossary -- Selected and Annotated Bibliography -- General Index -- Index of Scientific Names -- About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	Zeus, Medusa, Hercules, Aphrodite. Did you know that these and other dynamic deities, heroes, and monsters of Greek and Roman mythology live on in the names of trees and flowers? Some grow in your local woodlands or right in your own backyard garden. In this delightful book, botanist Peter Bernhardt reveals the rich history and mythology that underlie the origins of many scientific plant names. Unlike other books about botanical taxonomy that take the form of heavy and intimidating lexicons, Bernhardt's account comes together in a series of interlocking stories. Each chapter opens with a short version of a classical myth, then links the tale to plant names, showing how each plant "resembles" its mythological counterpart with regard to its history, anatomy, life cycle, and conservation. You will learn, for

example, that as our garden acanthus wears nasty spines along its leaf margins, it is named for the nymph who scratched the face of Apollo. The shape-shifting god, Proteus, gives his name to a whole family of shrubs and trees that produce colorful flowering branches in an astonishing number of sizes and shapes. Amateur and professional gardeners, high school teachers and professors of biology, botanists and conservationists alike will appreciate this book's entertaining and informative entry to the otherwise daunting field of botanical names. Engaging, witty, and memorable, *Gods and Goddesses in the Garden* transcends the genre of natural history and makes taxonomy a topic equally at home in the classroom and at cocktail parties.

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