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# Pomona

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Pomona, by Nicolas Fouché, c. 1700.

In Roman mythology, **Pomona** was the goddess of fruit trees,<sup>[1]</sup> gardens, and orchards. Her name comes from the Latin word, pomum, which translates to "fruit." She scorned the love of Silvanus and Picus but married Vertumnus after he tricked her, disguised as an old woman.<sup>[1]</sup> Her high priest was called the *flamen Pomonalis*. The pruning knife was her attribute. She is a uniquely Roman

goddess, never identified with any Greek counterpart, and was particularly associated with the blossoming of trees versus the harvest.

In 19th century statues and building decorations she is usually shown carrying either a large platter of fruit or a cornucopia. A nude statue of Pomona is in the fountain in the little park before the Plaza Hotel in New York City. For a listing of cities named after her, see Pomona (disambiguation).

The goddess Pomona is one of the three goddess offices held in the Grange or Patrons of Husbandry. The other goddesses are Ceres, and Flora.

She was said to be a wood nymph. In popular culture, Pomona is the forename of Professor Sprout, the teacher of Herbology (the study of magical plants) in the Harry Potter Series. Pomona also appears in the Chronicles of Narnia as the wood-goddess who blessed the orchard which was planted outside Cair Paravel.

## References

- <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Duckworth, George E (1976). "Pomona". in William D. Halsey. *Collier's Encyclopedia*. **19**. Macmillan Educational Corporation. p. 232.

### Topics in Roman mythology

#### Important Gods:

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| ■ Jupiter  | ■ Minerva |
| ■ Mars     | ■ Mercury |
| ■ Quirinus | ■ Vulcan  |
| ■ Vesta    | ■ Ceres   |
| ■ Juno     | ■ Venus   |
| ■ Fortuna  | ■ Lares   |

#### Roman Kingdom

#### Religion in ancient Rome

#### Flamens



#### Roman, Greek, and Etruscan mythologies compared

#### Other Rustic Gods:

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| ■ Bona Dea  | ■ Flora         |
| ■ Carmenta  | ■ Lupercus      |
| ■ Camenae   | ■ Pales         |
| ■ Dea Dia   | ■ <b>Pomona</b> |
| ■ Convector | ■ Egeria        |



## External links

-  Media related to Vertumnus and Pomona at Wikimedia Commons
-  "Pomona". *Encyclopædia Britannica* (11th ed.). 1911.



Pomona on the left, gracing the Beaux-Arts Peninsula (former Gotham) Hotel, New York City, built 1905, with Diana to the right. Click on the image for more information concerning this example of the Beaux-Arts style.



*Vertumnus and Pomona* by Luca Giordano (1682–1683), private collection

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Categories: [Agricultural goddesses](#) | [Roman goddesses](#) | [Dryads](#)

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