

“As she talks, her lips breathe spring roses: I was Chloris,  
who am now called Flora.” Ovid

This week's sculpture from Hadrian's Villa is a marble statue of Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers and the season of spring.



*Marble statue of Flora, Roman artwork from the Imperial period with some modern  
alterations, from Hadrian's Villa, Palazzo Nuovo, Capitoline Museums*

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While she was otherwise a relatively minor figure in Roman mythology, being one among several fertility goddesses, her association with the spring gave her particular importance at the coming of springtime. Her festival, the *Floralia*, was held between April 28 and May 3 and symbolized the renewal of the cycle of life, drinking, and flowers. Her Greek equivalent was *Chloris*, who was a nymph and not a goddess. Flora was married to Favonius, the wind god, and her companion was Hercules. ([Wikipedia](#))

This statue is on display in Palazzo Nuovo, Capitoline Museums, Rome.

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