

DEMETER

Greek name Δημήτηρ

Latin name Ceres

Name in your language

Parents Cronus and Rhea

Role goddess of harvest and agriculture

Home Mount Olympus

Attributes Cornucopia, wheat, torch

Pets crane

Demeter was the goddess of agriculture. Her life, against her will, became deeply connected to Hades, the King of the Underworld. When Hades kidnapped Persephone, Demeter's daughter, and abducted her to the Underworld, Demeter, unaware of where her daughter was, became frantic. She wandered throughout the Earth in grief, searching for Persephone (the goddess Hecate came to help, bearing her torch). Wherever she went, as she was the goddess of agriculture, the crops wasted away, and everything died in response to her desperation. Being the ruler of the gods, Zeus was forced to intervene to prevent the Earth's total devastation. The gods made a deal: Persephone would spend half the year on Earth, alongside her mother. This was the time when Demeter was the happiest, and what rejoicing there was in the world! It was Spring and Summer, the grain grew, and the meadows flowered. But, for the rest of the year, Persephone would stay in the Underworld with her husband, Hades. Then, Demeter would feel sad, and Autumn and Winter would reign on Earth. You may have now guessed this myth's function for the ancient Greeks: it explained the change of seasons.

