## Contents

List of illustrations vii Acknowledgements viii Abbreviations x Preface xi

## Introduction 1

- An ancient myth revisited: Adonis as citrus tree 6
  Pontano and the myth of Adonis 6
  The solar myth in Pontano's *Urania* 8
  The Garden of the Hesperides 11
  Competition with the ancients 12
  The search for the Hesperides 14
  Adonis as citrus tree 16
  New myths out of ancient verse 18
- Adonis and the Renaissance idyll 21
   The legacy of Pontano 21
   The pitfalls of inventiveness 24
   Adonis and the vernacular idyll: the eclogue 28
   Adonis and the vernacular idyll: the stanzaic poem 32
   Ovid's Adonis in translation 36
- 3 Adonis in sixteenth-century mythography 39
  Early attempts at a new mythography 40
  Lelio Gregorio Giraldi's pagan gods 43
  Natale Conti's explanation of myths 45
  The solar myth of Adonis in decorative cycles 47
- Giovan Battista Marino's Adone (i): From pastoral to epic poem 49
   Marino's life and works 51
   An outline of the Adone 55
   Origin and growth of the 'grand poem' 58
   Transgressive pastorals 60
   Jean Chapelain's defence of the Adone 62

vi Contents

The poem and the myth 65
From myth to contemporary chronicle 70

- Giovan Battista Marino's *Adone* (ii): The king's poem 73
  The poem and the court 74
  Binet's *Adonis* and Le Breton's *Adonis* 77
  'Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child' 84
  'The king never dies' 86
  Adonis as the born-again king 88
  The king's heart 91
- The seventeenth-century aftermath 95
  The legacy of Marino's Adone 95
  Marino's Adone and the Index of Forbidden Books 97
  Adonis and the theological debate 100
  Return to the Hesperides Epilogue 102

Notes 111
Bibliography 169
Index of manuscripts 195
Index of principal passages cited 197
Index of names 205