

## A Selection of Late March to Early April Blooms in the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum

Spring is the time when there's warmth, moisture, and sunlight on the forest floor. A *spring ephemeral* is a plant that completes its entire life cycle in the spring, sending up flowers and setting seeds before dying back to the ground. The plant remains dormant, roots resting underground, until the following spring.



**Foamflower**  
*Tiarella cordifolia*

Native to eastern North America  
It spreads by rhizomes underground. Its flower lasts up to 6 weeks, longer than most of the spring blooms.



**Fringed Bleeding Heart**  
*Dicentra eximia*

Native to eastern United States  
*Dicentra* means twice-spurred for the two protrusions on the top of the flower. The small petals at the bottom represent the "blood" of the name.



**Siberian Squill**  
*Scilla siberica*

Native to the Caucasus Mountains  
This plant is in the asparagus family, but it is toxic to people. It also spreads aggressively.



**Wild Ginger**  
*Asarum canadense*

Native to eastern North America  
These flowers are generally under the heart-shaped leaves of this groundcover.



**Squirrel Corn**  
*Dicentra canadensis*

Native to eastern North America  
Like many spring ephemerals, its seeds are transported by ants who are attracted to the oily elaiosomes.



**Dutchman's Breeches**  
*Dicentra cucullaria*

Native to eastern United States  
Bumblebees are the best pollinator for this flower because they have a long proboscis that can reach all the way in to the top of the flower.



**Toad Trillium**  
*Trillium cuneatum*

Native to eastern United States  
Also called toadshade or "bloody butchers" for the unpleasant odor of the flower. Trilliums have three leaves, three petals, and three sepals.



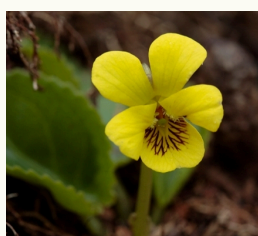
**Siberian Bugloss**  
*Brunnera macrophylla*

Native to the Caucasus Mountains into Siberia  
Same family (borage) as Virginia Bluebells. The leaves resist animal damage because they are very rough.



**Trout Lily**  
*Erythronium americanum*

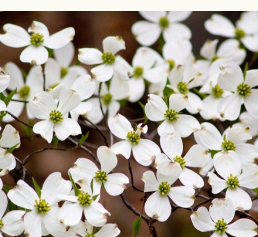
Native to eastern United States  
Named after its mottled brown leaves.



**Eastern Round-leaved Violet**  
*Viola rotundifolia*

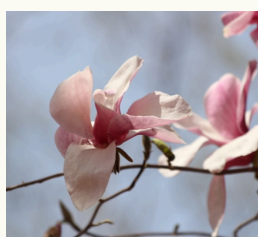
Native to eastern North America  
The leaves and flowers are on separate stalks.

## Early Flowering Trees and Shrubs



**Flowering Dogwood**  
*Cornus florida*

Native to eastern North America  
The dogwood is the state tree of Virginia. The white "petals" are actually sepals, while the yellow interior is the flower.



**Saucer Magnolia**  
*Magnolia x soulangeana*

A hybrid of two magnolias native to China.  
The flowers emerge before the large leaves appear.



**Red maple**  
*Acer rubrum*

Native to eastern North America  
In general, some maples produce the pollen-bearing flowers and some trees produce the samaras (seeds), but sometimes the same tree will do both.



**Eastern Redbud**  
*Cercis canadensis*

Native to eastern North America  
Redbud is in the legume family, and the blossoms are edible. Chickadees and some other songbirds eat the seeds.