

A Selection of Early Spring 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.



Winter Aconite
Eranthis hyemalis

Native to Europe & Asia Minor.
Important early nectar source for bees. They are planted by bulbs.



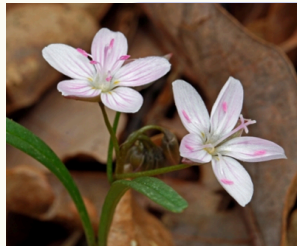
Bloodroot
Sanguinaria canadensis

Native to eastern North America.
In the poppy family. Broken leaves, stems, or roots give off a toxic orange latex as if bleeding.



Snowdrop
Galanthus nivalis

Native to Europe & SW Asia.
In the amaryllis family. Latin name means 'milk drop of the snow.'



Spring Beauty
Claytonia virginica

Native to eastern North America.
The roots are tubers; it was also called "fairy spuds" or wild potato.



Spring Crocus, Snow Crocus
Crocus vernus & chrysanthus

Native to the Mediterranean.
Under the bloom is a corm, a thickened stalk that stores energy. Crocuses make seeds, but also reproduce through making new little corms.



Lungwort
Pulmonaria saccharata

Native to western Europe.
The leaf spots are air pockets that cool the plant. The pink flowers turn blue as they mature to attract pollinators.



Dwarf Iris Cultivars
Iris species

Most are native to Europe and Asia.
In Greek mythology, Iris was a messenger of the gods. The French fleur-de-lis is related to the iris.



Grecian Windflower
Anemone blanda

Native to southeast Europe and Asia Minor.
In the buttercup family. Grows from corms and requires well-drained soil.



Daffodils
Narcissus species

Native to the Mediterranean
Any daffodil is a narcissus, but not all narcissi are daffodils. The number of flowers on the stem and the trumpet length make the difference.



Glory of the Snow
Chinodoxa luciliae

Native to Greece and Turkey.
Yellow stamens are the biggest difference between this and Siberian squill, which has blue stamens. Spreads easily.

Early Flowering Trees and Shrubs



Paperbush
Edgeworthia chrysantha 'gold finch'

Native to China and Myanmar.
Find it near Journey Stage Garden. Bark is used to make traditional Japanese paper (washi).



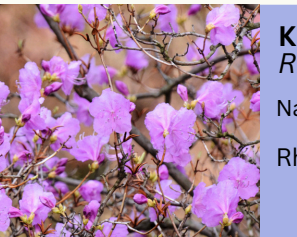
Star Magnolia
Magnolia stellata

Native to Japan.
This tree and its beautiful blooms are somewhat fragile. The early bloom time means these flowers are often damaged by frost.



Witch Hazel
Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena'

A hybrid of natives to Asia.
Native witch hazel blooms around Halloween. These unique blooms are very fragrant.



Korean Rhododendron
Rhododendron mucronulatum

Native to Korea.
Rhododendron means 'rose-tree.'