

Snowdrop, *Galanthus nivalis*



Bloom: Early Feb. - March

The Latin *Galanthus nivalis* means “milk-white flowers” or “milk drop of the snow.” These bulbs are in the Amaryllis family and naturalize readily.

Plant History and Habits

Along with winter aconite, snowdrops are the very first blooms of the year. A spring ephemeral, their foliage dies back after flowering.

Origins

Native to Europe and southwest Asia.



Why Spring?

The leaves don't emerge on the overstory trees until late April or May. That means the moisture on the forest floor can combine with sunlight to produce a growing opportunity. Once the trees “leaf out,” the shade provides some protection from drying out or overheating for the then-dormant plants.

Look for it...

Snowdrops abound along the John Clayton Trail and also brighten up the Viette Perennial Garden.

