

Minor Bulbs



A garden stroll in spring usually offers a lot of promise but little color. You can change this by planting one of the best kept horticulture secrets: "minor" spring bulbs that offer beautiful blooms as early as February and March.

These brightly colored plants are minor in usage but a major source of satisfaction to anyone who grows them, and, anyone can! Chionodoxa, muscari, eranthis, galanthus and other minor bulbs are planted at the same time as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths, and in the same way, although not so deeply. They make perfect partners for all of your other traditional spring-flowering bulbs.

Some of our favorites include:

Chionodoxa (Glory of the Snow) - Small 1 inch white-centered blue or pink flowers appear on leafless stems. Plant in large groups in front of early blooming shrubs or naturalize in the lawn. When grown in shade, blooms last several weeks. Plants grow 4-10 inches tall.

Muscari (Grape Hyacinths) - Offering the rare and cherished blue color in the garden, muscari have small spherical blossoms bunched into triangular clusters on top of delicate 6-9 inch stems. Grape hyacinths are available in many shades of blue, purple and white. We carry five different varieties.

Eranthis (Winter Aconite) - A relative to the buttercup, eranthis unfolds bright yellow, honey-scented blossoms that can carpet the chilly ground to bring life to a dormant rock garden. Plants grow 2-4 inches tall.

Galanthus (Snowdrops) - The cold is no deterrent to the bell-shaped frosty white flowers of galanthus. This plant thrives in light shade under leafless trees and is well suited to random planting amidst tough grass. Shorter varieties grow to 4 inches while giant snowdrops reach 10 inches.

Leucojum (Giant Snowflake) - Drooping bells of white or pink flowers with green tips adorn this frost-hardy 4 inch plant.

Allium - Offers colorful, distinctive, and long-lasting forms that stand out in the early summer garden. Alliums are sun-lovers and prefer well-drained even sandy soil. They are deer resistant and will mature to 3'-4' tall.

Scilla (Spanish Squill) - This late spring-flowering plant has multiple stems with up to 12 bells on each stem. Colors are blue, pink and white. Growing 10-12", Scilla need adequate moisture in the flowering season. Plant in full sun or partial shade.

Frittilaria (Crown Imperial) - Frittilaria have leaves growing all the way up the stem with a tuft of leaves at the top, under which hang the bell-like flowers. Colors are red, orange, yellow and a plum-purple. These exotic plants reach heights of up to 30 inches and naturally repel rodents and other animals. We carry 6 different varieties including several shorter-growing varieties.

