

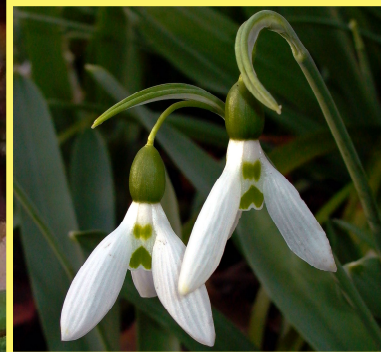


Featured Plant:

GALANTHUS (*guh-LAN-thus*)



Are the white patches peeking through the leaves the last drops of snow to melt or the first snowdrops to bloom? The white, bell-shaped flowers of *Galanthus* or snowdrops may appear delicate but they are hardy enough to withstand snowfall and cold temperatures. Among the earliest blooming bulbs, their flowers emerge mid-winter to early spring. (In the Shade Garden (4E), ← *Galanthus caucasicus* flowers in mid-November.)



Galanthus elwesii (*el-WEZ-ee-eye*) or the Giant snowdrop grows up to 12" tall with a 2" flower. More heat tolerant, it prefers full sun or light shade and moist, well-drained soil. It does not like to be disturbed once planted.

The smaller 1" flowers of *Galanthus nivalis* (*ni-VAH-lis*) or the common snowdrop grow on 4" to 6" stems. They prefer partial shade but are more tolerant of soil. Divide large clumps if the number of flowers diminish. Lift them after flowering while their leaves are still green and with the soil around their roots.

Although too late to plant new bulbs now, remember to plant them this autumn: in random groups around shrubs and deciduous trees; en masse in rock gardens and flower borders; naturalized in lawns; or as specimens in containers.