



Spring Flowering Bulbs Provide Early Food Source for Pollinators



By early spring, honey bees have used up most of the nectar and pollen in their hives and their stores are at the lowest point of the year. As temperatures rise in early spring, Queens begin to lay eggs and pollen and nectar must be gathered to feed them. Solitary bees, like

bumblebees, need to forage as early as possible as successful nesting depends on it.

Choose simple, single flowers for pollinators. Double varieties make it difficult or impossible for pollinators to reach their nectaries. Plant as many as you are able, large groups of flowers are easier for pollinators to spot. Try to select a variety of bulbs that flower at different times to provide a nectar source from early to late spring. Thank you for bee-ing so kind.

Bulbs for Early Spring:

- Snowdrops (Galanthus)
- Winter Aconite (*Eranthis*)
- Crocuses (Crocus)
- Siberian Squill (Scilla siberica)
- Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa*)
- Wood Anemone (Anemone nemorosa)
- Iris (Iris reticulate)

Bulbs for Mid Spring:

- Grape Hyacinth (Muscari)
- Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus*)
- Crown Imperial (Fritillaria)

Bulbs for Late Spring:

- Spanish Bluebells (Hyacinthoides)
- Ornamental Onions (Allium)
- Quamash (*Camassia*)

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For more information or high res images, please contact:

Peggy Anne Montgomery

peggyanne@gardenmediagroup.com

610-444-3040