

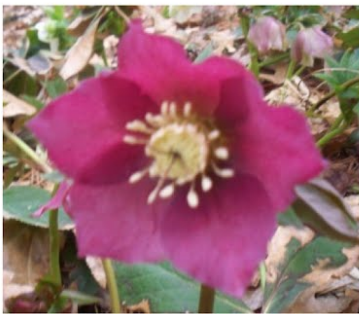
WHAT'S IN BLOOM EARLY APRIL



White Forsythia (*Abeliophyllum distichum*)

Oleaceae

White Forsythia is not true Forsythia, but is definitely a close cousin. It blooms in late winter to early spring, producing dense arrays of fragrant white flowers from purple buds while its branches are still barren of leaves. Flowers only appear on the previous year's growth. *Abeliophyllum* is a deciduous shrub from Korea, where it is nearly extinct due to harvesting for medicinal uses, but it is common in gardens and in no danger of total extinction. It grows to be 5', is hardy between Zones 5-9 and prefers a sunny, warm location. Our specimen is located in the Cottage Garden.



Hellebore (*Helleborus x hybridus* cvs.)

Ranunculaceae

Find these lovely, 2"-3" blooms in the Cottage and Systematic Gardens, or take a walk by the Mossy Steps in the woods of Tower Hill. Hellebore hybrids 'Blue Lady', 'Royal Heritage Hybrid' and 'Yellow Lady' will be found in the main gardens; find 'Royal Heritage', 'White Spotted Lady' and 'Yellow Spotted Lady' at the Moss Steps in our recent garden additions there. Stinking Hellebore (*Hellebore foetidus*) can be found in the Cottage Garden. These Hellebores are hardy from Zones 5-9, enjoy dappled shade, and enjoy a good garden soil.



Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*)

Cornaceae

The Cornelian Cherry is the first of the blooming *Cornus*. Many *Cornus* have stunning four-petal flowers with a variety of purple, red and white shades, but these early species offers petite yellow flowers hanging in umbels. Blooms will be followed by red cherry-like fruits in the fall; its flaking bark provides winter interest. The Cornelian Cherry typically grows to 15' or can be maintained as a shrub; it is native to Europe and West Asia. It tolerates a wide range of growing conditions but prefers well-drained soil in Zones 5-8. *Cornus mas* received the Cary Award for being an excellent specimen for New England.



Reticulated Iris (*Iris reticulata* cvs.)

Iridaceae

Reticulated Irises flower in late winter through early spring, and go dormant in early summer. Their single flowers create lovely splashes of blue and purple with yellow tongues on the petals, but they only reach 4"-6" tall. The species originates in the Middle East; it is hardy from Zones 5-8. Tower Hill has five cultivars of Reticulated Iris: 'Gordon', 'Harmony', 'Pixie', 'Ida' and 'J.S. Dijit'. They can be found in the Entry and Lawn Gardens. These Irises are bulbous instead of the more common rhizomatous forms and they force well indoors overwinter. When grown outdoors provide them with well-drained soil in full sun.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM MID APRIL



Pigsqueak (*Bergenia* cvs)

Saxifragaceae

This unusual spreading evergreen perennial is found in the Cottage, Lawn and Systematic Gardens at Tower Hill. Its clusters of white, red or pink flowers occur on stalks rising from waxy red and purple tinged leaves. It is hardy to Zone 5. Not only is Pigsqueak tolerant of cold conditions, the cold weather actually enhances its foliage color – turning it to shades of burgundy. Look for *Bergenia* 'Bressingham White', *B.* 'Britten', *B.* 'Rotblum', *B.* 'Rosi Klose' and *B. purpurescens* 'Delavay' on your garden walk today.



Fritillaria (*Fritillaria persica*)

Liliaceae

The blooming Fritillaria is one of the first plants to break ground in the thaw. It grows rapidly to a height of up to 3'. Its tall stalks bear numerous nearly black flowers. Blossoms are bell-shaped, with closely wrapped petals. Our Fritillaria can be found in the Cottage Garden against the Farmhouse wall. A native of Asia, it appreciates full sun to part shade, rich soil and grows in Zones 4-8.



The Daffodil Field (*Narcissus* cvs.)

Amaryllidaceae

Arguably one of the favorite spring features at Tower Hill is the Daffodil Field, containing more than 20,000 bulbs and over 14 cultivars. Elsewhere in the gardens numerous species and over 100 cultivars of Daffodils can be found in a wide range every shapes, forms and colors. Tower Hill Botanic Garden became an American Daffodil Display Garden in 2009.



Magnolia (*Magnolia* cvs.)

Magnoliaceae

Another favorite spring feature at Tower Hill is the collection of Magnolias. We have 11 cultivars and numerous species on the grounds. The showier cultivated varieties, famous for their huge blooms, are located in the formal gardens, and bear array of pink, purple, yellow and white flowers. The Northeast North American natives are located in the Inner Park.



Prunus (*Prunus* sp)

Rosaceae

Beautiful to gaze upon and a most famous sign of spring is the flowering Prunus family, which provides us with familiar friends such as the Chokecherry, Cherry, Peach, and Plum. *Prunus pendula* 'Pendula Rosa', *P.* 'Hally Jolivette', *P.* 'Okame' and *P.* 'Kwanzan' make the Lawn Garden come alive with trees covered in pink and white flowers. The Dwarf Peach tree *Prunus persica* 'Bonfire' is located by the Entry Pavilion and *P. cerasifera* 'Thundercloud' is located in the Lawn Garden.



Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus orientalis* cvs.)

Liliaceae

Across the Cottage, Lawn and Systematic Gardens are the lovely Hyacinth bulbs, springing up with their densely flowered pink, purple, yellow, and blue spikes and a heady fragrance. A tip to growers: the local Zone 5 winter requires these bulbs to be planted 6"-8" in the ground, twice as deep as warmer zones. The Oriental Hyacinth likes well-drained soil and partial sun to full sun. Given these conditions a beautiful Hyacinth may grow up to a foot tall. There are many cultivars available; at Tower Hill you will find 'Blue Pearl', 'Woodstock', 'China Pink', 'Queen of the Violets' and 'City of Haarlem'.

WHAT'S N BLOOM LATE APRIL



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Papaveraceae

This northeastern native winds tightly closed each night and unfurls in the warmth of the next morning, a common trait of the poppy family. It is delicate in appearance but this rhizomatous perennial has spread by seed to a new spot each year in the Cottage and Lawn Gardens. Its snow-white blossoms are up to 3" across, nearly the size of each intriguing, deeply lobed blue-grey leaf. Belying its delicate image, Bloodroot is poisonous if eaten, hardy down to Zone 3, grows in deep shade, and thrives in part-day sun as long as it stays moist.



Giant Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia gigantea*)

Aristolochiaceae

Giant Dutchman's Pipe, also known as Pelican Flower, is a vigorous vine with shockingly large flowers. These flowers, shaped like a "giant Dutchman's pipe", can be up to 1' long and 6" wide. They have lacy white veination against a deep maroon background and a yellow throat inside of the conical mouth. Giant Dutchman's Pipe can grow 20' high when given support; prune it to maintain a manageable size. Grow at least at 50 degrees indoors.



Citrus (*C. nobilis* 'Temple', *C. x meyeri* 'Meyer', *C. calamondin*)

Rutaceae

This is the collection for which our Orangerie is named. Grown indoors for the winter and moved outside during warm months, we have 9 species and 11 cultivars of Lemon, Orange, Key Lime, Bitter Orange, Bergamot Orange, Citron, Mandarin and Meyer Lemon. At any time several of them will be in bloom or in fruit. Their small, star-shaped blooms are jasmine-scented and intoxicatingly sweet. The extraordinary scent of the Citrus family is something worth experiencing.



Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*)

Ranunculaceae

Winter Aconite is a closer relation to Pasque Flowers and *Adonis amurensis* than to the tall, dark-flowered Aconite its name refers to. This lovely member of the buttercup family is one of the first spring flowers at Tower Hill, attracting early bees to its many bright yellow flowers. Its lightly veined, soft-green foliage is hardly noticeable behind the 1" flowers standing only 2"-3" off of the ground. This clump-forming perennial is a fast grower, spreading quickly where planted especially when given high-alkaline soil. It is native from Southern France to Bulgaria and is hardy in Zones 4-9. Find Winter Aconite in the Cottage Garden.



Spring Snowflake (*Leucojum vernum*)

Amaryllidaceae

Spring Snowflake is a beautiful spring bulb that grows up to 8"-12" from the ground. Its many flowers are borne on leafless stalks; they are bell-shaped and white with green tips. Foliage is strap-shaped, dark green and glossy. It is hardy from Zones 4-8 and comes from Southern and Eastern Europe. It enjoys full sun and well-drained soil. Find ours in the Systematic Garden. Like many spring bulbs, Spring Snowflake goes dormant in the summer.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM EARLY MAY



Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Fabaceae

Redbud is a spreading, multi-stemmed Northeastern native tree with broad, heart-shaped green leaves. Its clustered, bright purplish-pink flowers grow primarily on the bark last year's growth, and appear to feather the branches from bottom to top. It bears greater resemblance to a shrub when young, but can grow up to 30' tall. Eastern Redbud is hardy from Zones 4-9 and grows in deep, moist soil in full sun or dappled shade. Our specimen is found in the southern end of the Lawn Garden.



Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*)

Ranunculaceae

This low-growing flower from the United Kingdom and France is a definite charmer. Fuzzy when young, Pasque Flower is a clumping perennial with fine, feathery leaves and large pinkish-violet blossoms. *Pulsatilla vulgaris* f. *alba* is a white form with more upward-facing flowers. The stamens and pistils make whimsically large yellow presentations in the center of the flower, taking up a third to a quarter of the bloom width. Found here in our Systematic Garden, Pasque Flower is hardy to Zone 5, prefers very well-drained soil and full sun.



Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles x superba*)

Rosaceae

The deciduous shrub Flowering Quince has something for everyone. It bears lush red flowers prior to leafing in the late spring to early summer. In late summer to early fall it bears sweetly scented, hard yellow fruits. Both fruits and flowers will be protected by daunting, inch-long thorns. *Chaenomeles x superba* is the hybrid offspring of *C. japonica* and *C. speciosa*. It grows up to 5' tall and six feet wide; it is hard down to Zone 5 and grows best in full sun but tolerates some shade. Its suckers and offspring grow far too readily; keep an eye out for this one spreading further than you want it. *C. 'Nivalis'*, a white-flowered form, and *C. x superba 'Cameo'*, with soft apricot flowers, can be found in the Lawn Garden.



Quamash (*Camassia* sp.)

Liliaceae

Quamash is a perennial bulb from Oregon, now found in our Secret, Entry and Cottage Gardens. Cooked bulbs were used by Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest as a major food source; here it is a decorative specimen. With tall stalks of star-shaped bright blue, white or violet flowers it makes a beautiful addition to any border garden or meadow. It grows well in moist, rich soil in full sun to partial shade, but can be sensitive to excessive water. The specimens here are: *C. cusickii* (hardy in Zones 3-11); *C. leichtlinii* 'Semiplena' (Zones 4-11), and *C. leichtlinii* ssp. *suksdorfii* 'Blauwe Donau'.



Viburnums (*Viburnum carlesii*, *V. carlcephalus*)

Caprifoliaceae

The Viburnum is a multi-faceted shrub grown in borders and as specimens; it is attractive for its blooms, fruit, and foliage. These particular species add wonderful fragrance to that list of attributes. They are excellent wildlife plants, attracting many bird species year-round. Flowers appear in dense balls of white and pink; fruits are round, red beads. Viburnums are bushy and deciduous; branches may develop roots if left in contact with the ground for long enough. Depending again on the species, viburnums may be grown in many zones but typically prefer fertile, moist soil in full sun or partial shade. Look in the Secret and Cottage Gardens for *V. carlesii* and *V. carlcephalum*.



Pieris (*Pieris* sp.)

Ericaceae

This lovely shrub is beautiful as a specimen and provides excellent material for holiday greens. Pieris is a member of the same family as blueberries and rhododendrons as demonstrated when its blueberry-like flowers unfurl from burgundy buds. The cross between *P. japonica* and *P. floribunda* brought us 'Brouwer's Beauty', which grows to 10' tall and is hardy in Zones 5-8; it earned the Cary Award as a hardy and beautiful specimen for New England. *P. floribunda* only grows to 6' in Zones 5-8 and is a native shrub. Find the above species in the Lawn Garden and Inner Park.



Creeping Phlox (*Phlox stolonifera* 'Sherwood Purple')

Polemoniaceae

Creeping Phlox is another phlox suitable for groundcover, but differs from Moss Phlox in its broader leaves and preference for shade. Both *Phlox subulata*, *Phlox stolonifera* have long and bountiful flowering seasons. Grow this Phlox in rich, moist soil in partial shade in Zones 4-8. At Tower Hill you can find *P. subulata* 'Sherwood Purple' in the Entry Garden and *P. subulata* 'Bruce's White' in the Inner Park.



Jack-In-The-Pulpit (*Arisaema sikokianum*)

Araceae

This Japanese Jack-In-The-Pulpit is characterized by a dark burgundy hood with snow-white vertical stripes and a large, snow-white mouth with a startlingly large spathe. It is a tuberous perennial, commonly with two pedate leaves, and its flower is followed by clusters of red berries. *Arisaema* species appreciate moist, well-drained humus-rich soil in cool, partially shaded areas. *Arisaema sikokianum* is hardy down to Zone 4 and grows up to 20" tall. It can be found in the Cottage Garden, or occasionally if you look closely, where it has volunteered itself in shady sections of the Lawn Garden.



Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* sp.)

Oleaceae

Lilac, a common garden shrub, has a remarkable number of species and cultivars. They tend to be fast growing, suckering, and spreading shrubs attractive to bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. We have twelve cultivars available at Tower Hill, each varying with specimen habit, strength of scent, single or double blooms, and shades of white, purple or pink flowers. They can be found in the Entry, Lawn and Secret Gardens. Highly recommended are *Syringa vulgaris* 'Agincourt Beauty', 'Olivier De Serres' and 'Angel White'.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM LATE MAY



Red Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus x carnea* 'Briotii')

Hippocastanaceae

Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii' is a hybrid cultivar of *A. hippocastanum* and *A. pavia*. They were bred to create a tree up to 30'-40' high with glossy leaves and dark, rose-red flowers on standing panicles up to 12" tall. The flowers are followed by a spiny-shelled fruit that breaks away to reveal a polished, glossy, red and black nut. The Red Horse Chestnut grows well in deep, rich, moist soil in full sun or partial shade. Tower Hill's specimen can be located on the winding ramp between the Secret and Lawn Gardens.



Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*)

Rosaceae

This is a particularly sweet perennial with its light, airy blooms. The clusters of tiny flowers are borne on panicles up to 20" long; they are snow white if male, and a greenish white if female. The flowering stalks rise from fernlike green foliage up to 6' tall. Dwarf varieties of *A. dioicus* are available. They prefer moist soil in full or partial shade within Zones 3-7 but also tolerate drier conditions in full sun. It is a native of Europe, Eastern Siberia and Eastern North America. Our specimens (including *Aruncus aethusifolius*) can be found in the Systematic, Lawn and Cottage Gardens.



Gas plant (*Dictamnus albus*)

Rutaceae

'Unusual' is a good word to describe certain properties of this pretty plant from the Orient. Outwardly, it's fairly normal; the green foliage is pinnate and said to smell lemony. The blooms are very pretty and grow on panicles up to 36" tall. Flowers are large, white or pinkish-white and star-shaped, with visibly colored veins. Fruits and flowers can ignite in flames on hot days. Yes, that's accurate: flowers and unripe fruits produce a volatile oil that has been known to ignite when conditions are perfect. Thankfully, this is a rare occurrence but avoid contact and disturbance nonetheless. This durable perennial can be found in the Cottage Garden; if you want to grow this one yourself, pick dry, well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade in Zones 3-8.



Carolina Allspice (*Calycanthus floridus*, C. 'Venus')

Calycanthaceae

Carolina Allspice is renowned for its remarkable burgundy flowers. Thick, sturdy and strap-like petals form the deep, dark red bloom, which stands upright in a single presentation. Flowers fade brown in the summer while the leaves turn brown or yellow for the fall. Flowers from Sweetshrub are used commercially as a substitute for cinnamon. Growing 8' tall and 10' wide, it is native to the Southeastern U.S. and hardy in Zones 5-9. Plant it in moist, humus-rich soil in sun or partial shade. Look for *C. floridus* in the Lawn Garden and Inner Park, and *C. 'Venus'* in the borders west of the Farmhouse.