

Edgewood Gardens January 2019 Potted Snowdrop and Companion Bulb List

It is my pleasure to introduce Edgewood Garden's latest sales list of snowdrops and companion bulbs. All of the plants in this list are potted and growing – i.e. the way “in the green” really should be! Please order as soon as possible because quantities are extremely limited, especially in the case of a few exceptional forms of several species that I have named, and that are being offered for the first time. Please email your requests to info@edgewoodgardens.net. Payment by cash, check or PayPal is preferred.

As plants come into flower, if I have enough available, they will be added to the sales list, which will always be on my website. I will be issuing a dormant snowdrops list in the summer, and, in September, I will be issuing lists of trilliums and species peonies.

A photo album of some of the snowdrops that are for sale, that have been grown from seed at Edgewood Gardens, can be found at http://www.edgewoodgardens.net/Galanthus_sales_album/index.html. This album will be expanded to include all snowdrops for sale; photos of many of the other listed snowdrops can be seen on my website at <https://tinyurl.com/ybjpqlqv>. My website will also include expanded species descriptions, a discussion of their evolutionary history and the resulting relationships among the species that are still extant.

Another excellent, authoritative source for photos is Judy's Snowdrops: <http://www.judyssnowdrops.co.uk/>. You will see that I make frequent reference in the descriptions to the ‘snowdrop bible’. This is a reference to ‘Snowdrops’ by Matt Bishop, Aaron Davis and John Grimshaw.

Companion Bulbs

Name	Description	Price (\$)
<i>Asphodelus acaulis</i>	This gorgeous plant is a native of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria. It forms basal rosettes of narrow, succulent leaves and produces peach-pink flowers in early spring on short stems, from clusters of tuberous roots. It needs a sunny, very well-drained spot to prosper and has been hardy in such conditions for many years here in zone 6b.	25
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i> 'Orange Glow'	Also known as 'Aurantiaca' this is one of the very few winter aconites which are truly a rich orange-yellow color, especially when fresh. It is instantly recognizable and has the added benefit of coming true from seed, so a colony of similar individuals can be quickly built up.	25
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i> 'Schwefelglanz'	Another unique winter aconite, which also comes true from seed! It opens a rich soft apricot and fades through straw to pale ivory. Just as easy to grow as the regular ones.	20
<i>Eranthis x tubergenii</i> 'Sachsengold'	This is a cultivar from a German friend which has the same lineage as the famous 'Guinea Gold'. It is a little bit taller and very robust but has the unique advantage of being fertile, so it comes true from seed, unlike its predecessors. A wonderful plant and great breakthrough.	30
<i>Erythronium rostratum</i>	This is without doubt the finest of the three yellow-flowered trout lily species native to the eastern USA. It is found in the south-central part of the USA (Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ohio, Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Tennessee); these bulbs hail from Arkansas stocks. Large up-facing flowers follow the sun and emit a sweet scent. Despite its southern origins it has been hardy here for 15 years, spreading by seeds and stolons. Two bulbs per pot.	25
<i>Sternbergia candida</i>	One of the finest members of this genus, which is closely related to <i>Galanthus</i> . The highly scented large flowers are white and appear in early spring, when the leaves are just emerging. As they grow, the narrow, grey-glaucous leaves develop a helical twist, reminiscent of (but much larger than) <i>Galanthus gracilis</i> . The plant is native to SW Turkey, where it grows in shady sites, between limestone boulders in cedar forest. I grow it in full sun with excellent drainage. My stock was grown from seed collected by Jim and Jenny Archibald and bulked up vegetatively.	50
<i>Sternbergia vernalis</i> (<i>fischeriana</i>)	A second <i>Sternbergia</i> which is extremely rare in cultivation, this time yellow flowered and from eastern Turkey, Iran and Iraq to Kashmir. It also performs beautifully in the garden; flowering time will depend on how you grow it. In a greenhouse it can be in flower before Christmas, in a sheltered spot in the garden it will flower in February, and in the open garden it can be as late as April. The flowers are large, and the foliage can be green or glaucous and is usually twisted.	50

Snowdrops

Glossary

Segments and other flower features - snowdrop flowers typically have six 'petals' in two 'whorls'. The outer whorl has three long 'petals' and the inner whorl has three shorter ones. The 'petals' are in inverted commas because they aren't, technically, petals at all. So, they are referred to as '(perianth) segments'. **Inner segments** are the shorter inner whorl of 'petals' and **outer segments** are the longer outer whorl. Sometimes the inner segments are multiplied indefinitely, and the result is a **double** snowdrop flower. Very rarely mutations cause the inner segments to resemble the outer segments. the result is a **poculiform** flower. When the opposite happens - the outer segments mutating to resemble inners - the result is an **inverse poculiform**.

Apex and base - although these words have perfectly clear English meanings, their use can sometimes be confusing. If you picture a snowdrop flower, hanging like a bell, the **base** of the segments is, of course, at the top, and the **apex** at the bottom!

Sinus and Claw - at the apex of the inner segments is a notch, called the **sinus**. Above the sinus there are usually one or more green (or rarely yellow) splashes of color. These are referred to as **marks**. Marks are generally confined to inner segments but some of the most desirable snowdrop cultivars are notable for marks on the outers. An individual outer segment consists of a narrow 'neck', which joins the ovary and the main, bowl-shaped section of the segment. The narrow neck can be short and broad or long and narrow. It is referred to as the **claw**. Marks on the inner and outer segments and the shape of the claw are among the best ways of distinguishing cultivars.

Vernation - almost all snowdrops have two leaves per bulb. The way in which the leaves are arranged is a good way of distinguishing among species. The simplest arrangement is called **applanate**, in which the two leaves are flat and the margins (side edges) of the leaves are also more-or-less flat. This is the form of vernation in *G. nivalis*.

In **supervolute** vernation one of the two leaves is wrapped around the other. This is exemplified by *G. elwesii*. Finally, in species with **explicative** vernation, such as *G. plicatus*, the margins of the leaf are folded back in a sort of pleat.

Spathe, Scape, Ovary and Pedicel - the stalk of a snowdrop is referred to as the **scape**. At the top of the scape is a structure called the **spathe**, which encloses the developing flower bud. When the flower is mature, it breaks free from the spathe and dangles on a thread-like **pedicel**. Between the end of the pedicel and the flower is a roughly conical structure, universally referred to as the **ovary**. Again, various combinations of these features of the plant can be diagnostic.

Galanthus Species

The number of snowdrop species is partly a matter of botanical taste. About 23 is a good number to go with currently. In their native habitats, they start to flower in early October, in the Peloponnese of southern Greece, and the last species to flower in the wild, *G. platyphyllus*, doesn't come up through the melting snow high in the Georgian Caucasus until late May.

Very few of these species are cultivated in gardens, except by a handful of specialists but this is not, in most cases, because they are hard to grow. It is simply that they haven't previously been available as seed grown plants. There are species that are genuinely challenging to grow. The aforementioned alpine species *G. platyphyllus* is a good example. Others, however, such as *G. peshmenii*, *G. cilicicus* and *G. graecus* are just as easy as the more familiar species and hybrids, once you understand their needs. For several years now, I have been growing snowdrop species from seed collected in wild populations. This is a game for the patient, as it takes a minimum of four years to get a flower and six is not uncommon. The project is beginning to bear fruit, literally, and in this list, I offer un-named plants of [X] species, grown from seed with known provenance. This is a great opportunity to grow several of the less well-known species, some of which are likely to do well in gardens that are not suited to the widely grown trio of *G. nivalis*, *G. elwesii* and *G. plicatus*.

Because snowdrops are listed in Appendix II of CITES, international trade in their seeds is perfectly legal and, in fact, by growing genetically diverse samples of populations that are rare and often threatened by development in their native habitats, we can all make a big, positive contribution to their conservation. In this list I have given brief, thumbnail

descriptions with summaries of the most salient characteristics, for gardeners, of each species but bear in mind that wild snowdrops are hugely variable both within and among populations. Most of this vast pool of genetic diversity has not been available to galanthophiles previously and I hope that many more people will start to appreciate the pleasures and excitement of gardening with a wider range of species.

Galanthus Selections Raised at Edgewood Gardens

Name	Description	Price (\$)
<i>G. cilicicus</i>	A winter-flowering relative of <i>G. elwesii</i> , with narrow, blue glaucous leaves, present at flowering, applanate veneration and large, often textured flowers. There is a single, usually heart-shaped mark at the apices of the inner segments. Grows on limestone.	50
ACQ12720	Turkey, Mersin, Doruklu	
<i>G. elwesii</i> ssp. <i>monostictus</i> ACQ13166 'Eric Covell'	A dark green 'Deer Slot' type mark on the inners, fusing on some flowers, with lovely green-tipped outers. Small, dark ovary. Very robust, tall and strongly clump-forming	125
<i>G. elwesii</i> ssp. <i>monostictus</i> ACQ13162 'Jean Barbara'	A very crisp, well-defined, dark green 'Deer Slot' type mark on the inners. Elongated, pointed ovary. Very robust, tall and strongly clump-forming	125
<i>G. gracilis</i>	A narrow-leaved relative of <i>G. elwesii</i> , from western Turkey. The applanate veneration and often helically twisted leaves are characteristic. Apical and basal marks separate, the latter usually like a tear drop, sometimes with an olive yellow cast, usually extending to the ovary. Often produces two scapes per bulb.	50
<i>G. graecus</i>	This is the name I use for plants from the eastern Aegean, northern Greece and the western Black Sea region. Often with narrower leaves than <i>G. elwesii</i> , ambiguous veneration (usually weakly supervolute). Basal mark usually does not extend to ovary.	50
<i>G. 'ketzkhoveli'</i> (a synonym of <i>G. lagodechianus</i>, but horticulturally distinct)	<i>Galanthus lagodechianus</i> , occurs in the eastern half of the Caucasus Mountains and further south, into Armenia and Azerbaijan. The leaves are typically strongly recurved, dark, matt green, with a faint but definite narrow grey median line on the upper surface. The veneration is applanate. The flowers have a single variable green V-shaped mark at the apex. The places where it grows experience long, cold winters, often with a lot of snow and it ought to do well in gardens with a similarly cold climate.	50
ACQ11093	Georgia, Tskhvarichamia	
ACQ11094	Georgia, Tskhvarichamia	

<i>G. peshmenii</i> (fall-flowering)	A fall flowering species from southern Turkey, where it grows as a chasmophyte, always on limestone. It flowers with the leaves only slightly developed; when they do, they have a characteristic pale stripe down the middle of the upper surface. One green apical mark.	35
ACQ10948	Greece, Kastellorizo.	60
<i>G. sp. nov. aff. plicatus ssp. byzantinus</i> (fall flowering)	In north-west Turkey are several populations of <i>G. plicatus</i> (a species that is common and widespread around the western half of the Black Sea) that reliably flower in November in cultivation. They are an incredibly exciting find! They have relatively narrow leaves, with the distinctive pleating characteristic of <i>G. plicatus</i> , but which are absent or only a few centimeters long when the plants flower. The flowers have a fabulous scent. The outer segments are frequently heavily textured with longitudinal grooves or a seersucker effect. The inner segments usually have two distinct marks, a small apical V and a much larger basal blotch, which doesn't quite reach the ovary. Often the two marks meet and occasionally almost the entire inner segment is green.	
7 'Isla Louise'	An incredible plant – look at the photos (photo)! Turkey, Uncukuru.	250
37	Short claws and very broad, puckered spoon-shaped petals. Another stunner (photo) Turkey, Uncukuru.	200
23	Longer, very narrow claws and strongly puckered spoon-shaped petals, gorgeous (photo)! Turkey, Uncukuru.	200
35	Very vigorous clump former, long, narrow claws, ridged spoon-shaped petals. A group looks amazing (photo). Turkey, Uncukuru.	175
ACQ12262	Turkey, Uncukuru (photo)	125
ACQ12264	Turkey, Uncukuru	125
ACQ11606	Turkey, Uncukuru	125
ACQ11608	Turkey, Uncukuru	125
<i>G. reginae-olgae</i> (fall-spring flowering)	<p>Has the longest flowering period of any snowdrop, with wild populations in flower from late September to late March. Closely related to <i>G. nivalis</i>, but instantly recognizable by the paler median stripe down the middle of the upper leaf surface, which varies in color from blue glaucous to emerald green. Large flowers, often well scented. The earliest flowering populations of <i>ssp. reginae-olgae</i> flower without leaves; leaves are emerged to variable extents in later populations of <i>ssp. vernalis</i>.</p> <p><i>G. reginae-olgae ssp. reginae-olgae</i> is the first snowdrop species to flower each fall, both in cultivation and in the wild, starting in September. One of the loveliest of all species. The absence of leaves at flowering time enhances the beauty of the flowers, which are among the largest in the genus. Usually but not always, they have an excellent scent. Forms with textured outer segments, green markings on the outers, albinos and forms with entirely green inners are starting to make their way into cultivation.</p>	

<i>G. reginae-olgae</i> ssp. <i>reginae-olgae</i> (fall-flowering) ACQ12680	Robust, strongly clumping form with the apical mark covering half of the inner petals, and outers twice as long as the inners (photo).	50
ACQ12597	Shorter claws, long petals with green tips (photo). Greece, Taygetos.	75
ACQ12598	Long narrow claws, long spoon-shaped outer petals, green tips (photo). Greece, Taygetos.	75
ACQ12610	Long elegant claws, extremely long outer petals (photo). Greece, Taygetos.	75
ACQ12613	Strongly green marked tips to the outer petals (photo). Greece, Taygetos.	75
201017-1_13	Elegant, long claws, exceptionally long outer petals (photo)	75
201017-1_17	Long, elegant claws, extremely long outer petals (photo).	75
ACQ13030 'Alexandra Beryl'	Incredibly strong, bolt upright, tall stems display the clean flowers to perfection (photo). Greece, Taygetos, Milea.	75
<i>G. reginae-olgae</i> subsp. <i>vernalis</i> (winter-spring-flowering) ACQ12926 'Tilly'	Very tall, robust and early, with very large leaves (photo). Greece, NE of Theoktisto.	75
ACQ7918 'Magnetic Pedicel'	A vigorous clone of the spring flowering form selected by English galanthophile Tom Mitchell from a batch of seeds collected on Mount Orjen in Montenegro. The feature for which it was selected is the pedicel, which is about 1.5 times the length of the spathe and which holds the flower well away from the scape, allowing it to jiggle in the breeze like the cultivar 'Magnet'.	65
<i>G. rizehensis</i>	Morphologically very similar to <i>G. lagodechianus</i> , perhaps with more tendency to have a narrow pale stripe down the middle of the leaf upper surface. Its range in north west Turkey and it does not overlap with <i>G. lagodechianus</i> . Hugely variable, not least in how freely it flowers, and it is important to choose seed-grown, strongly flowering clones.	50
ACQ11388	Turkey, Demirdöven	
ACQ11389	Turkey, Demirdöven	
ACQ11390	Turkey, Demirdöven	

<i>G. samothracicus</i>	The most recently described snowdrop species and still almost unknown in cultivation, <i>G. samothracicus</i> was discovered on the Greek Aegean island of Samothraki. The vernation is applanate, the leaves narrow and glaucescent, with a noticeable, blueish bloom, that is easily rubbed off. There is a single apical mark on the inner segment which is typically somewhat larger than the equivalent mark in <i>G. nivalis</i> . In most cases the pedicel is longer than the spathe, an attractive feature that makes the flowers dance in a breeze. It forms clumps, sometimes comprising dozens of bulbs and occasional clones produce two scapes per bulb. Its finest feature, from a horticultural perspective, is its incredible scent, which is among the best produced by any species in the genus.	125
ACQ10750	Greece, Ano Meria	
ACQ11118	Greece, Therma	
ACQ11120	Greece, Therma	
ACQ11121	Greece, Therma	
ACQ11124	Greece, Therma	
<i>G. snogerupii</i>	This snowdrop honors Dr. Snogerup, a Swedish botanist who devoted a lot of his life to studying the plants of the Greek Aegean island of Andros. According to Aaron Davis's monograph of the genus <i>Galanthus</i> , the valid name for this species is in fact <i>G. ikariae</i> , which was first found on the island of Ikaria. The plants from Andros, however, flower much earlier than Ikarian plants – in late December or early January in the wild – and they have shiny leaves, a paler bright green than those of <i>G. ikariae</i> . It is one of the most beautiful of all snowdrop species, in my opinion, combining attractive 'seersucker' foliage and wonderfully scented flowers, which are among the largest in the genus and have a large, molar tooth shaped mark at the apex of the inner segments.	50
<i>G. transcaucasicus</i>	This species grows in a long arc in the extremely diverse Hyrcanian forests that clothe the mountains rising above the southern margins of the Caspian Sea. It has probably the widest altitudinal range of any snowdrop. It's the only <i>Galanthus</i> to grow below sea level, not as an aquatic but on the shores of the Caspian, which is 17m below mean sea level, and it extends at least up to 2500m in the Alborz Mountains of Iran. This incredibly wide range unsurprisingly results in populations that vary in flowering time in the wild, from early December to early May, at the highest elevation sites. In cultivation, plants from most low altitude sites start to flower in November. <i>G. transcaucasicus</i> is a distinctive species, having green leaves without any glaucous bloom, supervolute vernation and a single mark at the apex of the inner segments. Clones producing two scapes per bulb are fairly common and forms with green markings on the outer segments are also occasionally found.	125

<i>G. trojanus</i>	A fascinating species, of slightly obscure origin, now confined to a few woods in north-west Turkey. It has bright green leaves, typically applanate vernation, a single mark at the apices of the inner segments and a fabulous scent. Often produces two scapes per bulb.	
ACQ13084 'Lauren Louise'	A stunningly beautiful plant with pristine white flowers. A single, small dark green mark adorns her narrow frilly undies. The outers are beautifully clawed, tapering into broad spoon-shaped petals. A potful is magical, and easily attained in this unusually robust clump-forming clone.	250
<i>G. woronowii</i>	Easily recognized, having broad, bright green, glossy leaves, strongly supervolute vernation and flowers with a single apical mark. Although they are not yet widely grown, plants with green markings on the outer segments are not uncommon in wild populations. This is a clump forming species. Habitats range from citrus groves and tea plantations near the Black Sea coast to wet woodland slopes up to about 1500m in the mountains. It frequently grows as a chasmophyte, on wet cliffs above rivers, often, but not always, on limestone.	35
ACQ11481 'Eleanor's Early'	An early flowering, very attractive, green-tipped robust plant with oddly-shaped square-shouldered flowers. Georgia, S of Batumi.	90
ACQ11491	Green-tipped outers, inner mark split in two (photo). Georgia, S of Batumi.	60
ACQ11497	Green-tipped outers, inner mark is an upside-down heart (photo). Georgia, S of Batumi.	60
<i>Galanthus x valentinei</i> ssp. <i>subplicatus</i> ACQ12854	An attractive form with a single apical green mark on the inners and beautifully ridged inner and outer petals. Greece, N of Ierissos (photo).	40

Other Named Galanthus Selections

Name	Description	Price (\$)
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Deer Slot'	A photograph is worth a thousand words, or so they say. In the snowdrop bible Matt Bishop showed a photograph of this selection of <i>G. elwesii</i> , in which the apical mark on the inner segment is split into two hoof-like marks. In a big clump, a handful of the plants will show this character, but some won't. It's vigorous, however, and will form big clumps quickly. The snowdrop bible puts it more elegantly: 'Though doubtless the character that galanthophiles seek out, the split marking is just one feature in a plant of supreme overall quality.'	40
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Fred's Giant'	The original clump was selected in 1949 in Scotland. A very imposing <i>G. elwesii</i> , with an apical V-shaped mark and two separate basal marks, not quite reaching the ovary. Strongly in its favor are its vigor, longevity in cultivation and amenability. If you are looking for an easy, inexpensive representative of this species as a backbone to a collection, this is an excellent choice.	30

<i>G. elwesii</i> '(from) Elmley Lovett'	An elegant flower shape is the finest feature of this selection. The flower is moderately large. The inner segment marking is a narrow X, truncated about three-quarters of the way to the base, with the remainder of the segment often stained a paler green. The leaves are narrow and slightly helically twisted and the vernation is only weakly supervolute - this plant could well be a hybrid, but I am including it where it is usually placed, with <i>G. elwesii</i> .	30
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Goliath'	As the name implies this is a large selection of <i>G. elwesii</i> . The flowers are not especially large by the standards of this species though the leaves are erect and long at flowering time, almost overtopping the flowers. They are also somewhat helically twisted, in a manner reminiscent of the closely related species <i>G. gracilis</i> . The inner segment mark is in the shape of a squid, extending almost to the base and the impression from a distance is of a mostly green inner segment.	50
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Kite'	Famous for its tendency to produce two or more flowers from each scape, at least when growing well, 'Kite' would still be worth growing without this feature. The flowers are held well above the erect, blue-glaucous, dagger-like leaves. They have long, narrow outer segments, which splay widely, revealing a dark green X-shaped mark on the inners. The shape of the mark on the inner segment is common in <i>G. elwesii</i> and, coupled with a very small sinus, could lead to confusion with 'Maidwell L', but the latter is a smaller plant, with smaller flowers and chubbier outer segments. When the two are seen together they are very different.	25
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Lodestar'	An excellent, reliable selection of <i>G. elwesii</i> , with inner segment markings that resemble a face. The apical mark is shaped like a moustache of the sort a Belgian master detective might sport and the 'basal' mark, which is actually some distance from the base, consists of two long, droopy, eyes that meet in the middle. Quite typical of wild populations of <i>G. elwesii</i> but sufficiently distinctive to merit a place in the garden, where it is vigorous and easy to please.	40
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Maidwell L'	One of the most vigorous selections of <i>G. elwesii</i> for me and one I often recommend to anyone staring down the slippery slope of galanthophilia. The flowers are rather similar to those of 'Kite', with fairly long, fairly narrow outer segments with acute apices and a not-very-clearly defined X-shaped mark on the inner segments. The leaves, however, are less blue than those of 'Kite', arch more strongly and have two distinct grooves (or tramlines) either side of the midline on the upper surfaces. The cucullate tips of the leaves also taper rather abruptly to a small apiculum, whereas the dagger-like leaves of 'Kite' taper gradually to an elegant point. Bulks up quickly to make a good clump.	30

<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Long Drop'	According to the bible, this is 'certainly the largest-flowered single-marked, <i>G. elwesii</i> cultivar' and the elongated ovary enhances the impression of large flowers. The outer segments are narrowly ovate and acutely pointed. The inners have face-like markings, with a chevron on the apical half and two more-or-less faint dots either side of the mid line, about 2/3 of the way to the base. The leaves have weakly supervolute vernation and are narrow and erect. I suspect, on the basis of the weakly supervolute vernation and narrow leaves, that it is a hybrid, but the Bible says it is a selection of <i>G. elwesii</i> .	50
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Marjorie Brown'	A vigorous, reliable selection of <i>G. elwesii</i> , dating back to the 1950s. It flowers right at the end of the snowdrop season and is valuable both for that reason and for its gorgeous, broad, distinctly blue leaves. 'Highly garden-worthy', according to the snowdrop bible.	30
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Melanie Broughton'	A fine selection of <i>G. elwesii</i> or a hybrid closely related to it. The flower has a short ovary, constricted at the junction with the segments, deeply concave outers, which are rolled inwards towards their apices, creating a bottom-heavy look and almost entirely green inner segments. The leaves are arching and a pleasing gray-glaucous color.	50
<i>G. elwesii</i> 'Yvonne Hay'	Named for his wife by the late Harry Hay, this is a large selection of <i>G. elwesii</i> , with big, long-clawed flowers. The mark on the inner segments is a striking inverted heart shape. For me it typically flowers early in the New Year under glass.	40
<i>G. nivalis</i> 'Anglesey Abbey'	Named for the eponymous abbey near Cambridge in England, this green-leaved variant of the usually glaucescent leaved <i>G. nivalis</i> has a unique combination of features that make it instantly recognizable, not always a given with recently named cultivars. The leaves are bright, glossy green and the flowers often tend to be poculiform, though this feature is not stable, and a clump will contain a mixture of fairly normal and (attractively) aberrant flowers. It is a vigorous plant, quickly bulking up to form large clumps.	50
<i>G. nivalis</i> 'Chedworth'	This is another snowdrop that, seen as a single bulb, would not immediately strike one as deserving of a name but 'it is an easily grown, freely increasing snowdrop forming nice tight clumps'. Anyone who is slightly intimidated by the jargon surrounding the collecting of snowdrops, or the prices that some of the rarer and newer cultivars command, would do very well to invest in this easy, pleasing plant.	25
<i>G. plicatus</i> 'Colossus'	This is one of the most vigorous snowdrops I grow. It is a selection of <i>G. plicatus</i> and has lush, broad leaves (the snowdrop bible commends it as a foliage plant), unusually large flowers and often two scapes per bulb – giving a clump great impact. It is an outstanding and early flowering garden plant.	30

<i>G. plicatus</i> 'Crimean Form'	A robust selection of <i>G. plicatus</i> , with very large and beautiful flowers. Up to 30cm tall in flower, selected by Leonid Bondarenko. Superb in the open garden.	50
<i>G. plicatus</i> 'Diggory'	The award for the most instantly recognizable snowdrop ever found and named must go to this one. Discovered by Rosie Steele and named for her late son, it is a selection of <i>G. plicatus</i> and has the strongly puckered outer segments quite frequently associated with that species. In 'Diggory', however, the outers roll inwards along their length, so that each one resembles a half-clenched fist. Many snowdrop freaks are, frankly, ugly but this one is ravishingly beautiful. The outers form a carafe-shaped goblet and the almost entirely green inner segments shine through the gaps between them. The effect is stunning. It is a vigorous plant too, bulking up in some gardens to form huge clumps. Essential in every collection.	50
<i>G. plicatus</i> 'Percy Picton'	An old but exceptional selection of this species, named for the late owner of Old Court Nurseries in England. Its most distinctive characteristic is the exceptionally long pedicel, which holds the flower far away from the spathe, but it is also one of the most vigorous and reliable snowdrops in my garden (and many other gardens). Essential foundation snowdrop in any collection.	20
<i>G. plicatus</i> 'Priscilla Bacon'	One of the finest selections of <i>G. plicatus</i> in my opinion. The flowers are large, globular and the outer segments have a striking seersucker texture. This trait is not uncommon in wild populations of <i>G. plicatus</i> but it is especially striking in this cultivar. The rather pale inner segments markings resemble a face, with a narrow V above the apex and two eye spots near the base. According to John Morley, it was found at Henham, in England, in the same naturalized population that produced the Christmas-flowering 'Three Ships'. 'Priscilla Bacon' flowers much later, towards the end of the snowdrop season.	50
<i>G. plicatus</i> 'Sabine'	One of the great anthropological curiosities of the 21st century is the 'Galanthus Galas' that are springing up all over the world. They started in England, and that is where the most fascinating ones are still held. They center around the sale of snowdrops and the premier event in any galanthophile's calendar is 'Myddleton House', a snowdrop sale held at the end of January each year, at E.A. Bowles' former home. New cultivars are often released here, and it is worth attending purely as a spectator sport, to watch sharp-elbowed little old ladies being shoved out of the way by 7-foot-tall Dutchmen, in the race for the latest, greatest thing. One of the regular exhibitors is Richard Bashford, a man with an outstanding eye for good snowdrops. 'Sabine' was selected by Richard as a selection of <i>G. plicatus</i> , that flowers in early January. It has large (1.4 inch) flowers, with a roughly X-shaped mark on the inner segments, and the outer segments have long claws and a nicely ruffled texture. Mature plants produce two scapes per bulb.	50

<i>G. plicatus</i> ‘Trymposter’	An extraordinarily prolific seedling of ‘Trym’, which is more vigorous than any of its cousins except, perhaps, ‘Trumps’. In an exceptionally crowded field, this is a genuinely distinctive plant. Like other members of the ‘Trym’ series, it is an ‘inverse poculiform’, in which the outer segments somewhat resemble the inners, with green apical markings. The outer segments have long claws, from which the main blade of the segment expands abruptly to form an almost circular bowl. The whole segment is strongly reflexed. The apices are obtuse and lack a sinus. The markings on the inner segments are unexceptional but the sinus is particularly narrow and deep. The lush leaves are erect, with narrowly explicative vernation and almost as tall as the scapes at flowering time.	60
<i>G. reginae-olgae ssp. vernalis</i> ‘Blue John’	An early flowering, diminutive selection of this highly variable species, made by John Morley. It has very beautiful narrow, very blue-glaucous leaves and a prominent paler silver median stripe. Easy to grow and vigorous, quickly making large clumps.	30
<i>G. x allenii</i>	A mysterious snowdrop that has been in cultivation for a long time; it was named by John Baker in 1881 for the galanthophile James Allen. It's a robust plant, with supervolute vernation and leaves with a unique, highly recognizable shade of blueish green. The inner segments have a single green mark above the apex. The large, globular flowers are highly scented. The mystery arises from its origin, supposedly in the wild in Georgia and it is thought to be a hybrid of some kind, perhaps a natural one, a suggestion that is supported by DNA evidence. No wild populations have ever been found, however, and so the mystery persists. A beautiful and fascinating snowdrop.	50
‘Benton Magnet’	Essentially a smaller version of the classic ‘Magnet’, but no less vigorous. For me this plant rivals ‘Colossus’ for vigor.	20
‘Bertram Anderson’	In the chest of every true collector beats a heart that lusts to possess the latest, greatest thing. This is a vice that I heartily endorse, but it is also sensible, and cheaper, to invest in a few things that are vigorous, gorgeous, and almost impossible to kill. ‘Bertram Anderson’ is in this category.	25
‘Bill Bishop’	This plant has one of the largest flowers of any snowdrop cultivar. It belongs among a loose group of hybrid snowdrops – the ‘Mighty Atom’ complex – all with large flowers with a single V-shaped mark at the apex of the inner segments. ‘Bill Bishop’ flowers earlier than most of this group and has the largest flowers (1.6 inches). The snowdrop bible says: ‘its enormous, almost disproportionately long outer segments... contribute much elegance to the plant’.	25

'Brenda Troyle'	There is some doubt as to whether this cultivar has retained its 'true' identity down the years, and it is indeed very similar to other hybrid snowdrops in the 'Mighty Atom' complex. But anyone who has seen the drifts of it growing in the outstanding garden of German galanthophile Peter Janke will agree that it deserves its place in any collection. The plant I grow under this name is very similar indeed to 'S. Arnott', in stature, flowering time, scent and flower and leaf characters. That's a compliment! The moderately large flowers, with their delicious scent, are held well above the erect, spear-like leaves. They open widely in warm weather and are exquisitely proportioned, with a simple, crisp, bridge-shaped mark above the sinus on the inner segments.	30
'Brigadier Matthias'	Brigadier Matthias was the owner of the Giant Snowdrop Company, the original purveyor of snowdrops. The plant is a narrow leaved selection of <i>G. elwesii</i> or perhaps more likely a hybrid, which is how I am treating it for now. The flowers are of medium size, mildly scented and have pleasing inner segment markings, consisting of a dark green apical V and a much paler green smudge just over half way from apex to base.	40
'Byfield Special'	An outstanding hybrid that deserves to be widely grown. The scented flowers are large and shapely and hang from one of the longest pedicels I've ever measured on a snowdrop. The wide inner segments are thick, with an absolutely flat apex and just a simple narrow V over the sinus, on only half the width of the segment. The spear-like leaves are upright but much shorter than the scapes at flowering time.	65
'Cotswold Beauty'	A highly desirable hybrid snowdrop selected by the British galanthophile Phil Cornish. The outers are slender and elegant; the strongly flared inners have a distinctive, elongate X, the upper arms of which are much extended. The Snowdrop Bible suggests that it may have <i>G. gracilis</i> and <i>G. plicatus</i> as parents, but it is rarely possible to be sure about the ancestry of garden hybrids.	40
'Cottisford'	Unfortunately, I have lost track of where I obtained this plant and I can find virtually no evidence of it on the internet, so I don't know whether I am applying the name correctly. At any rate, the thing I grow as 'Cottisford' is an attractive plant, with blue glaucous, narrow leaves but nevertheless supervolute vernation. The flowers are rather small, with acutely pointed outer segments and an X-shaped inner segment mark, the upper arms of the X being much paler green than the lower arms.	30
'Ding Dong'	An excellent, easy, fast-increasing hybrid selection made by Alan Street of Avon Bulbs. The flowers are distinctive, noticeably narrow with pointed outers, on fairly long claws below a distinctly elongated ovary. The inner segment mark is a broad apical V, with two arms extending to the base, often shaded paler green between. The impression is often of two vertical, almost separate lines. Usually has two scapes per bulb, a feature that is well worth seeking out in snowdrops, for it makes clumps appear far more floriferous.	50

'Ermine House' (double)	An excellent, very regular, double snowdrop selected by the late Hector Harrison. The outer segments are narrow and pointed. The inners are arranged in tight, neat whorls and the dark green mark on each resembles a jellyfish, with tentacles trailing down either side of the sinus. I find the 'Ermine' series of double snowdrops far more beautiful than the better known <i>Greatorex</i> doubles.	45
'Faringdon Double' (double)	Double snowdrops – meh – I can live without them, overall. At least, I am very selective with those that I choose to grow. This one earns its place because it is the earliest double snowdrop to flower, in early January here. The flowers are large and have a diffuse heart-shaped mark on the inner segments. Found by Ruby and David Baker.	45
'Fieldgate Fugue'	The Fieldgate series of snowdrops were all found and named by the legendary English galanthophile Colin Mason. All are good, in my opinion, and all distinct. 'Fieldgate Fugue' has big, thick textured flowers with rounded outer segments with a small but distinct apiculum (little point). The inner segments have the classic 'space invader' mark associated in many minds with 'John Gray', which may have been one of the parents of this cultivar. The leaves are broad and have narrowly explicative margins.	50
'Fieldgate Prelude'	One of a series of hybrid snowdrops selected by Colin Mason. This is my favourite of them all and the earliest to flower. It is one of the few established snowdrop cultivars where the female parent – 'Mrs Macnamara' – is known. It flowers early in the new year for me, just a little after its mother. The flowers are long and narrow, with a distinctive 'space invader' mark on the inner segments. The narrow leaves are an unusual shade of blue-green and have an upright habit, just the tips recurving. Once you get your eye in, this combination of features makes 'Fieldgate Prelude' one of the most distinctive of snowdrops.	40
'Fly Fishing'	A hybrid seedling selected and most aptly named by Alan Street at Avon Bulbs for its extraordinarily long pedicel, which projects the flower far out from the spathe, which is often split, at least for part of its length. The inners have a simple apical green mark, but this plant is intriguingly variable in the extent of the green markings on the outer segments. In some gardens, in some years, these are hardly visible, whereas in others they are prominent. Discussing this phenomenon with other galanthophiles, it doesn't seem that more than one clone is involved, but that this character is inherently variable. My stock, which came from the finder himself, shows exceptionally strong green markings here. The leaves are glaucous and upright, with weakly supervolute veneration.	40

'Galadriel'	One of the best all-round hybrid snowdrops, in my opinion, it was discovered by the late Beth Chatto in her famous woodland garden and named for Tolkien's Lady of the Wood. The flowers are large, globular and have a particularly distinctive Y-shaped mark on the inner segments. There are typically two scapes per bulb. The leaves are grey glaucous and upright, with supervolute vernation, but the flowers are held well above them.	55
'Galatea'	A superior hybrid snowdrop dating from the 1970s. The flowers are similar to 'S. Arnott', but the ovary is slightly longer, and the pedicel is definitely longer than the spathe (whereas in 'Arnott' they are almost the same length). The leaves are erect, glaucous and the margins are more-or-less flat or occasionally subrevolute. Vigorous, persistent and easy, this excellent plant should be in every snowdrop collection.	30
'George Elwes'	A truly exceptional snowdrop. As the authors of the snowdrop bible put it unblushingly: 'probably the finest result from a pairing of <i>G. elwesii</i> and <i>G. plicatus</i> '. The flowers are long and shapely, the outer segments being strongly 'clawed', the inner segments mostly green, but with a narrow white triangle extending from the base. Mature bulbs usually produce two scapes. The leaves are strikingly upright, like green spears. An instantly recognizable drop.	40
'Greenfields'	An Irish selection from the 1950s, similar to the equally robust 'Headbourne', this clone has a bold, dark green, heart shaped mark on the apical half of the inner segments. It is a fairly small plant. One of half a dozen inexpensive, bomb-proof clones, including 'S. Arnott', 'Percy Picton' and the aforementioned 'Headbourne' that I would recommend to anyone starting out growing snowdrops.	30
'Headbourne'	If you saw a single plant of this relatively small snowdrop with simple flowers, not noticeably distinct from ordinary <i>G. nivalis</i> , you'd be forgiven for asking why it deserved a name. But it was selected by Michael Baron, no mean judge of snowdrop flesh, for its great vigor and enthusiasm for clump-forming. An outstanding garden plant.	30
'Homersfield'	A distinctive hybrid snowdrop, probably a cross between <i>G. nivalis</i> and <i>G. plicatus</i> , the inner segments have two 'eye' marks at the base. I like snowdrops that I can recognize at a glance and this one has the added advantage of being tall and vigorous. It usually produces two scapes per bulb.	35
'L. P. Short' (double)	A vigorous, strongly green-tipped double snowdrop. Each shoot tends to produce three leaves, not the usual two, giving a clump a bulky appearance. One margin of each leaf is flat, the other revolute or narrowly explicative. The mark on the inner segments is a long, dark green heart, extending 2/3 of the way to the base. The combination of these features makes this a relatively easy double to recognize.	50

'Little Ben'	One of those ironically named snowdrops, this hybrid cultivar has large (1.25 inch), 'heavy' flowers that weigh down the pedicel. 'Potentially the finest member of the 'Mighty Atom' complex', according to the bible, which 'ought to become widely grown'.	35
'Little Magnet'	Another variant on the 'Magnet' theme (though entirely unrelated to that cultivar), which is not especially little. It was found and named by ace galanthophile Alan Street, of Avon Bulbs, apparently very close to the original clump of 'Blewbury Tart'.	30
'Longstowe'	An unassuming hybrid snowdrop with tall scapes and a nice contrast between the olive-green ovary and the bold, dark green heart on the inner segments. Easy and vigorous and a good 'backbone' snowdrop.	25
'Magnet'	On most snowdrops, the pedicel is either shorter than the spathe or of similar length. In some clones, however, the pedicel is much longer, and the flower therefore dangles well away from the spathe and scape and appears to dance in the slightest breeze. 'Magnet' is the classic example of this phenomenon; an ancient, distinct, and very vigorous plant.	20
'Merlin'	The authors of the Snowdrop Bible are rather rude about this well-known cultivar, accusing it of having 'inelegant, dumpy flowers' and a 'rather pea-like ovary' but I like it! I'd describe the flowers as 'chubby', rather than dumpy and I like the way the rounded ovary (OK, it does look like a pea), markedly constricted at the junction with the outer segments, reflects the shape of the broad outers. It does go to show how subjective snowdrop appreciation is. As well as having almost entirely green inners, the flowers are nicely scented. The leaves are erect and have flat, through revolute to very narrowly explicative margins. Sometimes produces two scapes per bulb.	25
'Natalie Garton'	The late Margaret Owen's closest gardening friend was the exceptional English plantsman, Chris Sanders. He's a big man, with a big brain and he runs marathons before breakfast, as a warm-up exercise before double digging a hundred yards of herbaceous border. Margaret kept trying to name a snowdrop for him, but he demurred, until a semi-double snowdrop with an almost rapacious appetite for life seemed to appear in Margaret's garden. He consented to having his name appended to this drop. Unfortunately, it seems likely that it had already been named – as 'Natalie Garton' – and so Chris's snowdrop is therefore invalid. It's a superb, incredibly vigorous plant, notwithstanding the naming snafu.	45
'Orleton'	Selected by Joe Sharman for its extraordinary vigor, this hybrid between <i>G. nivalis</i> and <i>G. plicatus</i> has narrow leaves, with slightly explicative margins. The flowers have notably narrow, long-clawed outer segments.	35

'Peg Sharples'	'Probably the best cultivar in [its] division' and 'extremely valuable for its late-flowering' habit', say the authors of the Snowdrop Bible of this excellent, broad-leaved hybrid, with much <i>elwesii</i> in its blood. The mark on the inner segments is an X-shape, with the upper arms much paler than the lower. Like many hybrids that have been around for several decades, this is a vigorous garden plant.	40
'Rodmarton Arcturus'	Dr Ronald Mackenzie, British galanthophile extraordinaire, puts this superb recent selection in his top ten list. The combination of small ovary, puckered, globular, balloon-like outer and bold inner segment markings is very attractive. The inner segments are triangular and very nearly as broad as they are long. It is super vigorous, quickly bulking up to form large clumps, making it a very garden-worthy choice.	60
'Pyramid'	One of the great characters of 20 th Century gardening, the late Margaret Owen had an extraordinary garden, 'The Patch', a corner cut out of her son's Shropshire farm. In it she grew thousands of plants, but snowdrops were her special passion. Margaret didn't name many snowdrops but everyone she named met the strict criterion of vigor. No matter how distinctive a plant, if it was feeble it didn't cut the mustard. 'Pyramid', named for its distinctive flower shape, is one of her best. Like 'Mrs Macnamara', there's nothing obviously unique about it, but when you see a lusty clump in full flower, beside the struggling single bulb of an allegedly superior clone, it's easy to see why Margaret loved it.	45
'Robyn Janey'	A hybrid with an exceptionally long pedicel that projects the flower far away from the much shorter and bolt upright spathe. The outer segments are strongly unguiculate, long, narrow, sculpted and strongly bowed. There are two small 'eye spots' near the base on either margin, which are visible even when the flower is closed. The leaves are absolutely erect and have narrowly explicative margins.	50
'S. Arnott'	I think that many galanthophiles, faced with the awful choice of growing only a single snowdrop cultivar, would plump for 'S. Arnott', a hybrid selected by Brigadier Mathias of the Giant Snowdrop Company, in the early 1950s. The flowers are large, well-formed, deliciously honey-scented and dangle on pedicels, which are almost exactly the same length as the spathe, well above the erect, rather glaucous leaves, which have at least one explicative margin per pair. Anyone who has seen the extraordinary bank covered with this very vigorous snowdrop at Colesbourne will understand why it is an absolutely essential component of any collection.	20

'Sentinel'	A superb hybrid snowdrop with big flowers and a distinctive shape. The ovary is small and globular, and the outers have short claws in proportion to their considerable length; they are also distinctly longitudinally grooved. The inners have a complex mark, which is somewhat variable. The apical mark is an approximate 'H' and is joined to the basal mark, which is composed of two green ovals that almost merge. The scape is inflated and bolt upright, presumably the feature that suggested the name. The rather green, slightly glossy leaves arch strongly.	40
'Shropshire Queen'	Most aptly named, this was found by the late Simon Savage, an excellent plantsman, with a great eye for a cracking plant. It is similar to 'S. Arnott', with a slightly longer pedicel, a smaller apical mark on the inners and a less pronounced scent. A vigorous plant and well worth growing alongside its more illustrious cousin.	25
'Wasp'	I have a 'three-yard rule'. If I can't recognize a snowdrop from three yards, it's probably not distinct. It used to be a ten-yard rule, before I got into craft beer in a big way. 'Wasp', which has narrow outer segments and two green marks on the inners, is one of the most aptly-named and instantly recognizable snowdrops. A big clump really does clearly suggest a hovering swarm of insects. Found and named by another of the grand, formidable ladies of the snowdrop world, Veronica Cross. It is healthy, vigorous and ought to be in every collection.	30