

Snowdrops

Their Latin name is Galanthus, which means "milk flower". It belongs to the same family of flowers and plants as lily, tulip, garlic and onion!

Snowdrops have three white outer petals, which are between 15 and 25 mm long, and three white inner petals. The inner petals each have a cleft with a green patch around it. There are two or three blue-green narrow leaves to each bulb.

Most snowdrops flower in Winter, before Spring officially starts on the 21st of March.

There are up to 20 species of snowdrop in the wild. They grow beside streams and in damp woodland areas.

There are about 2 000 different cultivated varieties, meaning 2 000 types of snowdrop that have been deliberately grown to be different from other varieties.

In a lot of countries, many varieties are not readily available. However, they are in high demand. A single bulb of a rare variety called Galanthus 'Green Tear', which was found in Holland, sold on Ebay this year for € 360, or about € 430!

A short story about snowdrops

March 1st is the Moldovan national holiday. On this day, people in Moldova give each other presents of flowers.

One of the old Moldovan legends tells that once, in a fight with the Winter Witch, the beautiful Spring lady cut her finger. A few drops of her blood fell on the snow, which melted. Soon on this place, the first snowdrop grew. In such a way, Spring won the fight against Winter.

All over Europe, we think of the snowdrop as the first sign of Spring, as it is the first flower that we see after the long Winter!

