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Contributed by Trish Reynolds

MINOR BULBS---A REAL WOW IN THE GARDEN

Most of us are very familiar with Tulips and Daffodils, and if you visit my gardens in the spring you know that I am in love with them. Over the past twenty or so years we have been adding upwards of a 1,000 tulips and daffodils to our gardens, and naturalizing them in our lawn, giving us great joy as we say goodbye to winter and hello to spring!

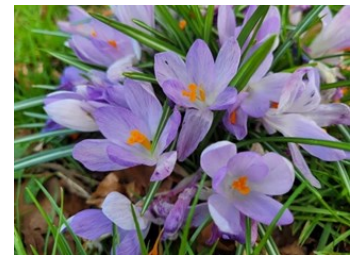
But there are some little guys that can be added to your landscape that will just wow you and perk up a rock garden, a pot or a small spot out your back door. These are frequently referred to as Minor Bulbs.”

One of the earliest to show up in my garden, sometimes as early as late January, early February, is *Erantus* or Winter aconite. Growing just 4-6 inches tall, the bright yellow, cup-shaped blooms add a visual punch to the winter garden and have even been known to peak thru a light snowfall.



Another early favorite is *Galanthus nivalis* or Snowdrop, a tiny member of the Amaryllis family – who knew! This tiny (4” tall) plant usually signals the beginning of the end of winter for me as it also flowers beginning in late January, or even earlier. It features nodding, bright white flowers with a tiny speck of green....delicate and beautiful. The English have gone bonkers over this bulb and it has almost arisen to a type of “tulip-mania” status in Great Britain.

Not exactly a bulb, the *Crocus* grows from a corm. Like the others I have mentioned, Crocuses grow to 4” and come in yellow, white, blue and bicolor combinations.you might want to check out an even smaller variety, *Crocus tomasinianus*, also known as “tommies” with 2” high lilac blooms. I have found that it is best to plant crocus in masses.....resulting in the best display.



Often confused with the early blooming Scilla, *Chionodoxa luciliae*, Glory-of-the-snow produces blue-white or pink flowers in the early spring....mine are in bloom now. The name of this plant is derived from the plant’s habit to flower in alpine regions just as the snow is melting in the spring. These beautiful, delicate-looking flowers grow 4” to 6” tall. If you want to see a beautiful display of *Chionodoxa*, you must see the March Bank at Winterthur.

Here are few more small bulbs in my garden....blooming right now!



Cyclamineus Class Daffodil



*Muscari armeniacum (Grape Hyacinth)
with Double Daffodil*