



23rd February 2026

## Wave goodbye to winter blooms by planting these spring stars in your garden

As February draws to a close, homeowners bid farewell to the hardy winter-flowering plants that have brightened their gardens through the coldest months and welcome an exciting array of spring blooms. The reliable winter stalwarts, including winter pansies, cyclamen, hellebores, and winter flowering heathers, have provided essential colour during the darkest season. As these finish their display, it's the perfect time for gardeners to start planning their next season in the garden, and the team at British Garden Centres has got the ultimate list of spring plants and jobs you can get on with to make your garden come alive again.

### What this means for gardeners

Garden centres across Britain are now stocking fresh arrivals of spring bedding plants, including primroses, polyanthus, and potted bulbs. This transition period offers excellent opportunities for gardeners to deadhead and tidy winter-flowering plants to encourage any remaining blooms, plant spring bulbs in containers for instant colour, and prepare beds and borders for summer by adding compost and clearing debris. It's also the perfect time to take advantage of clearance sales on remaining winter stock and plan by purchasing seeds for spring sowing.

### Looking ahead

With the last frosts hopefully clearing soon, now is the ideal time to start preparing your outdoor space for the growing season ahead. Don't rush to remove winter flowering plants entirely. Many plants, such as hellebores and winter heathers, will continue to provide attractive foliage even after flowering. Winter pansies can often produce a second flush of blooms if deadheaded regularly and fed with a liquid fertiliser.

### Spring plants to replace your winter blooms

As winter blooms fade, there are lots of exciting options for bringing colour back to gardens. Primulas and Polyanthus are the stars of early spring, available in virtually every colour in the rainbow for immediate impact. These hardy plants thrive in cooler temperatures and are perfect for containers, window boxes, and border edges, providing instant colour that will last for weeks.

**Spring pansies and violas** offer brighter colours and larger blooms than their winter counterparts, making them excellent choices for borders, hanging baskets, and containers. Meanwhile, **Bellis** brings cottage garden charm in white, pink, and red shades.



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**Potted bulbs**, such as daffodils, provide the first glimpse of spring. Look for varieties like 'Tête-à-Tête', 'February Gold', and traditional yellow trumpet daffodils, whilst potted tulips are increasingly popular, with pre-planted pots just coming into bud. Crocuses, snowdrops, and muscari will add delicate pops of colour to containers and rockeries, while potted hyacinths fill the air with a distinctive fragrance and are wonderful for positioning near doorways, paths, or even inside for the ultimate spring scent.

### **Perennials and Shrubs**

Some great spring plants to try now are **Pulmonaria**, which offers attractive foliage and early flowers, whilst **Bergenia** produces clusters of pink or white flowers above glossy evergreen leaves. For a ray of sunshine, look for **Forsythia** with golden yellow flowers, and **Camellias**, which offer stunning rose-like flowers in red, pink, and white. **Skimmia** delivers fragrant flower clusters and year round foliage interest, whilst **rhododendrons and azaleas** create a woodland theme in your garden.

**Erigeron**, the charming daisy like Mexican flower, will tumble beautifully over walls and paving all summer long, while **Erysimum** offers richly coloured wallflowers that will bloom reliably for months. For bold vertical drama, **Lupins and Delphiniums** bring striking spires of colour to beds and borders, while scabiosa will attract pollinators throughout the season, adding an elegant, wispy softness to any planting scheme.

### **Preparing for spring**

Choose healthy plants with good leaf colour, no signs of disease, and plenty of buds. While many spring plants are hardy, protect tender bedding from late frosts until late March to early April. Plants in bud provide longer displays than those in full flower. Stock up on compost, including ericaceous varieties for acid-loving plants.

**Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres**, said: "The end of winter blooms is the signal every gardener is waiting for. Once those winter stalwarts start to fade, it's time to get out into the garden and make things happen. There's a huge amount of choice in garden centres right now, and with the right plants and a bit of preparation, you can have a really impressive garden this spring and summer."

British Garden Centres has a wide selection of spring plants and blooms available at all garden centre locations and online at [www.britishgardencentres.com](http://www.britishgardencentres.com)



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**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors:**

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 75 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by the Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.

BGC was launched in 1990 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018, it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now, with 75 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham.

The group has a team of 3,200 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres, Woodthorpe Leisure Park, and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

**Social Media**

Facebook: British Garden Centres

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Website: [www.britishgardencentres.com](http://www.britishgardencentres.com)

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