



MURRAY'S  
the art of crafting nature

## Dig This!

Experiences of growing and landscaping here in Newfoundland by our seasoned landscape horticulturalists.

### Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Spring

I took this picture one cold day in early May. The sky was grey, the wind was blowing and the soil in my small city garden was wet, cold and rocky. But this is what I love about springtime here; the smallest beauty is so worth the effort! This Hellebore with its bright color, slight freckles and lush leaves stood out in my garden for 6 weeks or more. If you are planning for a Spring garden, you have to choose plants that last! You can choose plants that offer flowers, fragrance, fancy buds and fantastic foliage.



Other perennials I have grown are Bloodroot, Bergenia, Epimedium, Pulmonaria, and Columbine. They will push through the coldest soil and last for weeks. The heavy snow won't keep them down and it's too early for bugs to munch on them! Plant them under trees, around your shrubs or in large groups in the flower garden where they like to keep

each other company. Once the flowers are gone, the foliage will cover the ground with greens of every shade.



**Bloodroot**

Early flowering shrubs are the bright spots in our gardens before the leaves are even thinking of making an appearance. Forsythia, Witchhazel, Pink Dawn Viburnum and Daphne are all worth seeking out. Spend time in early spring wandering through your local nursery: you will see flowers, colourful buds and stems and emerging leaves on plants that you may miss in the summertime. Extend the time of interest in your garden by choosing these plants for your early spring garden.

It takes a little planning to enjoy spring blooming bulbs in your garden but that planning is definitely worthwhile. With our cool spring and 'summer' temperatures, these fall planted bulbs are invaluable, easy to grow and affordable. Most of them thrive in extended cool weather. There are many types of tulips and daffodils to discover: showing different colors, height and some fragrance! Plant them 'cheek to jowl' so the clumps are thick and showy. Arrange them in colors which complement your taste and in waves throughout the garden.



One of the sweetest sounds of Spring is birdsong. When planning your garden, include thought for the plants and the features which will provide birds with shelter and food. Choose flowering for seed and fruit production such as roses, crabapple varieties, cotoneaster and Spireas. Evergreens provide shelter for small birds; choose dwarf evergreens for the small city garden or any planted area so that at maturity they have not outgrown the space. This includes dwarf blue spruce, heaths, heathers and dwarf yews.

Even though the Spring here is cool, try to get outside to enjoy the smell and the sounds of all the activity happening outside. Spring blooms are delicate but often fragrant. Reach down, lean in and enjoy!

*Lorna Hogan,  
Nursery Manager and Landscape  
Horticulturist*

Use a little bonemeal at planting and plant them anytime from late September to November; plan out your colors on paper and keep a record of where they all are! That will come in handy later. A few weeks after the flowers are gone, trim back the leaves and try some annuals or perennials in those areas.



**Fritillaria meleagris**