

SQUIRREL SOLUTIONS • ATTRACT MOURNING DOVES

Birds & Blooms

Beauty in Your Backyard and Beyond

Love Birds

Adorable ways your favorite fliers flirt ♥

AMERICA'S
no. 1
Bird & Garden
MAGAZINE

**KICK OFF
SPRING!**

*Start seeds
indoors*

10 early blooms

*Seasonal
feeding tips*

MOURNING
DOVES

Plant an **ALLERGY-FRIENDLY** backyard



9 Lenten rose

HELLEBORUS X HYBRIDUS,
ZONES 4 TO 9

This sweet, simple-care favorite is perfect for the shadier spaces in your garden. Over time, this prolific self-seeder colonizes an area with robust evergreen foliage that's a crowd-pleaser all year long.

Why we love it: It's easy to want hellebore in all its striking colors: the almost black Midnight Ruffles, the burgundy-spotted pale petals of Rio Carnival and everything in between.

OTHER FIRST BLOOMERS

Plant these options for extra spring beauty.

- Crocus
- Snowdrop
- Daffodil
- Hyacinth
- Pansy
- Creeping phlox
- Virginia bluebell



10 Pasque flower

PULSATILLA SPP., ZONES 4 TO 8

European pasque flower (*P. vulgaris*) usually boasts pale to deep purple petals but some red and white varieties are also available. The bright yellow centers draw the first pollinators of the season. *P. patens* is a native, found across the country, and has blue-violet flowers.

Why we love it: This rabbit-resistant charmer puts on one of the earliest shows in spring. The blooms are followed by attractive fuzzy seed heads that have a beauty all their own.

Jill Staake grew up with a forsythia bush outside her bedroom window. She watched the shrub closely each year for the first blooms of spring.