



Plants of early – mid-spring interest

One of a series of seasonal walks, this leaflet is designed to help you get the best out of your visit to Rosemoor by highlighting the areas and plants of greatest early - mid-spring interest. At the entrance to each garden area, look out for the framed panels for additional information. Award of Garden Merit (AGM) plants have been through a rigorous assessment by the RHS.

In this transition period between winter and spring, there are many bulbs and winter flowering shrubs still looking good. Prevailing weather conditions will determine when certain plants come into flower so some of those listed may not be in their prime when you visit.

The Early – Mid-Spring Trail

This trail will take about 1.5 hours at a leisurely pace. If you wish to visit parts of the garden not on the trail, detours will be suggested along the way.

Leave the Visitor Centre, turning left down the ramp into the Winter Garden where many winter interest plants will still be looking good, Hellebores teamed with *Narcissus* along with *Anemone* and *Pulmonaria* provide colourful ground cover. You will find plant 1 opposite the Learning Centre entrance and plant 2 is in the bottom corner of the Winter Garden.

1. *Stachyurus chinensis* ‘Celina’ Hanging racemes of pale yellow cup-shaped flowers.

2. *Camellia japonica* ‘Apple Blossom’ Semi-double, blush-pink flowers.

Carry on along this path and just beyond your next turn, *Oemleria cerasiformis* with drooping fragrant white flowers is worth the slight detour. Take the turn opposite the three silver birches; plants 3 and 4 are in the bed on the left.

3. *Pulmonaria angustifolia* ‘Azurea’ Pink buds opening to bright blue flowers.

4. *Chionodoxa sardensis* AGM Deep blue flowers with pale centres.

In the next bed on the left we have plant 5 and in the beds flanking this path a selection of heathers (*Erica*) form a patchwork of blues, pinks and white.

5. *Pieris japonica* ‘Valley Valentine’ AGM Large drooping panicles of dusky red flowers.

Walk through the pergola and plant 6 is on the right. Close by, we have the gorgeous pink flowered *Prunus* × *incam* ‘Okamé’ AGM and, to the left, the fragrant *Osmanthus* × *burkwoodii* AGM hedge.

6. *Viburnum x burkwoodii* ‘Anne Russell’ Pink buds open to fragrant, tubular white flowers.

Go past the *Pyrus calleryana* ‘Chanticleer’ which will be covered in clusters of white flowers, re-join the main path and turn left. Going past the Visitor Centre, look out for bright yellow *Sophora* Sun King ‘Hilsop’ AGM against the retaining wall by the steps.

Turn left into the Shrub Rose Garden where you will find plant 7 edging the paths. .

7. *Muscari armeniacum* AGM Spikes of deep violet-blue flowers.

Go through into the Hot Garden where cultivars of *Fritillaria imperialis* AGM will be flowering and exit onto the lower path and plant 8 is straight ahead.

8. *Prunus* ‘Jo-nioi’ Clusters of scented white flowers - one of our many ornamental cherries.

Turn right and head towards the Foliage Garden. Plant 9 is on the left and plant 10 is through the trained *Sorbus* on the right.

9. *Magnolia salicifolia* ‘Wada’s Memory’ AGM Fragrant semi-double white flowers.

10. *Rhododendron* ‘Gristede’ AGM. Trusses of funnel shaped, violet-blue flowers.

Follow the path, looking out for *Pieris* cultivars and *Camellia japonica* ‘Silver Anniversary’ AGM on the way. Plant 11 is by the Foliage Garden entrance.

11. *Berberis valdiviana* AGM Large drooping clusters of yellow flowers.

Turn left into the Foliage Garden and explore, looking out for southern hemisphere plants that have started to flower, for example *Tasmannia lanceolata* and *Corokia*. Exit onto the Long Border via the steps or ramp and turn right. Plant 12 is on the right; just one of many *Narcissus* cultivars on these borders.

12. *Narcissus* ‘February Silver’ Creamy-white outer petals with contrasting pale yellow trumpet.

Turn left along the edge of Shrub Rose Garden, left into the Herb Garden then through to the Cottage Garden. Pots full of plant 13 are arranged around the cottage.

13. *Narcissus* ‘Tête-à-tête’ AGM. Deep yellow cups surrounded by slightly lighter petals.

Exit the Cottage Garden, turn left, and then right into Stream Field which is surrounded by borders of flowering trees and shrubs and naturalised bulbs in the meadows. Follow the path towards the lake, take the next left turn. Plant 14 is on the right.

14. *Anemone x lipsiensis* ‘Pallida’ AGM Pale butter-yellow saucer-shaped flowers.

These banks are also home to clumps of *Leucojum aestivum* and *Pulmonaria rubra*. Marsh marigolds and the emerging flowers and leaves of *Gunnera manicata* line the banks of the stream and lake. Go across the bridge; no. 15 is beneath the oak tree.

15. *Fritillaria meleagris* AGM. Nodding bell-shaped flowers with checkerboard markings.

Here you can make a diversion to the Fruit and Vegetable garden where plums, nectarines and pears are coming into flower and the greenhouse is full of scented *Narcissus* and freesias.

Next, make your way to the Rock Gully turn left; plant 16 is growing on the stream bank.

16. *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* Deep yellow trumpets and pale yellow petals.

Look across the stream into the Fruit Field to see a mass of purple *Crocus tommasinianus* AGM.

Follow the stream looking out for *Stachyurus* with drooping pale yellow flowers and *Ribes laurifolium* among the rocks opposite. Go through the underpass and on entering Lady Anne’s Garden, a mass of hellebores make an impressive display on the corner. Turn left, heading towards Rosemoor House.

If you turn right, you can explore the Bicentenary Arboretum where many trees will be in spring growth.

As you make your way along the drive, look out for rhododendrons, magnolias, *Lindera*, *Hamamelis* and *Viburnum* flowering in the borders and Arboretum. Naturalised *Narcissus* light up the meadows. Turn right into the Mediterranean Garden where plant 17 is in one of the central beds. Euphorbias, *Erysimum* and tulips will also be flowering.

17. *Cytisus x boskoopii* ‘Zeelandia’ AGM Abundant pink and cream flowers.

Explore this garden and exit via the ramp. Turn right and plant 18 is on the left and 19 is on the right.

18. *Iris lazica* AGM Deep lavender blue flowers.

19. *Rhododendron calophytum* hybrid Large trusses of pink flowers with deeper pink marks in the throat.

This is the time of year when our magnificent magnolias near to Rosemoor House, will be in flower. Make your way around the back of Rosemoor House, through the car park, turn right and go between the buildings. Plant 20 is on the bank.

20. *Magnolia x loebneri* ‘Merrill’ AGM Very free flowering with white blooms.

Here, make a diversion to the Woodland Garden (steps and slopes) where colourful rhododendrons, magnolias and *Prunus* are beginning to flower. Alternatively, take the right turn into the Exotic Garden then immediately left. Go up the slope, turn right into Cherry Garden. This delightful woodland edge garden is filled with choice varieties of *Primula*, *Pulmonaria* and *Hellebore*; plant 21 is on the left.

21. *Edgeworthia chrysantha* Lightly fragrant yellow flowers.

Carry on into the Stone Garden where camellias are still in flower along with *Prunus incisa* ‘Praecox’. Containers of spring flowers fill the courtyard.

We hope you have enjoyed the Early – Mid-Spring trail and that you will return to try the other trails in the series (Mid – Late-Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter). If you are interested in purchasing any of the plants listed or would like any advice, please stop in the plant centre before you leave.