

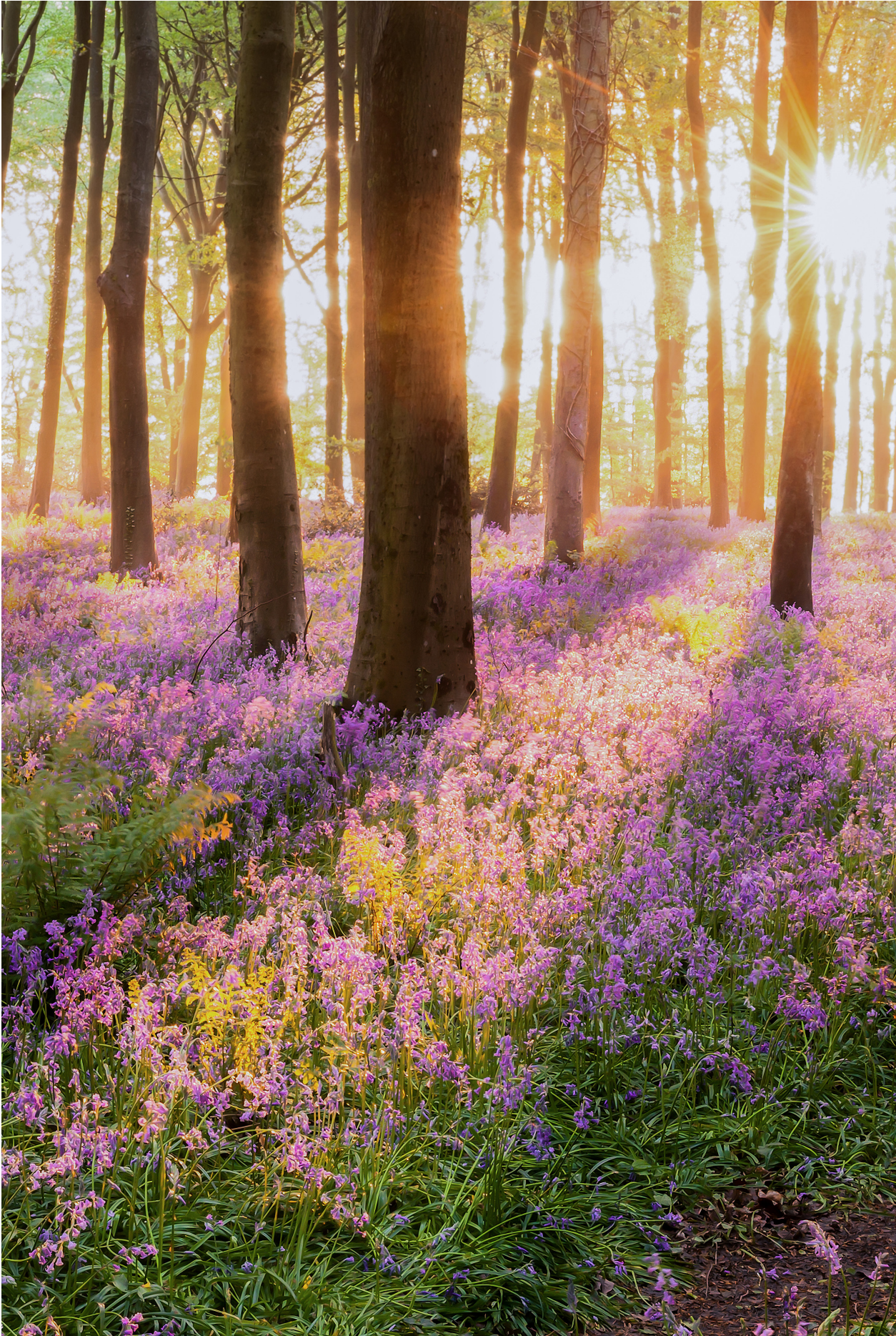
Spring Planting

Now that spring has sprung, here are some helpful tips on spring planting and how to get the best results from your garden.



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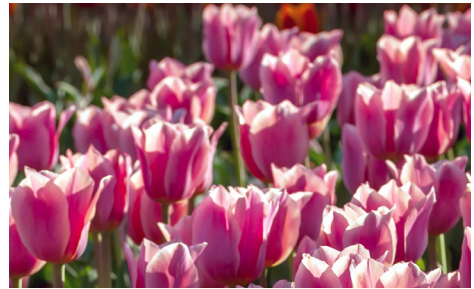
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Spring is probably the most exciting season for those who love nature. The days are getting longer, and nothing delights more than seeing those first shoots beginning to break through the crusty soil. Spring is a season of awakening, the slow unfurling of new foliage and the promise of longer days ahead.

Starting from the ground, we love getting out for woodland hikes at this time of year and looking at some of our native spring flowers. Violets (*Viola hirta*), primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) and anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) are abundant in the spring, getting a head start on the trees that tower above. These natives also do very well in urban gardens and will self-seed and regenerate year after year.

A flower synonymous with Spring is the ubiquitous daffodil. Sow at least three different types of daffodils, as then you can enjoy a prolonged flowering season. The dwarf Narcissus 'Tete a tete' is a strong performer and looks great towards the edges of a drift. A mix of daffodils, muscari, allium, tulips and camassias sown through your lawn will provide constant colour from March to late May and save you a lot of grass cutting.





Hellebore (*Helleborus orientalis*) is a terrific plant for any small gardens, as the creamy green flowers hang elegantly for months over the clumps of chestnut like leaves. Look for burgundy, a very striking variety. The hellebore is more than happy in the shadier corners of your garden; try mixing it with some *Brunnera macrophylla* for their frosty white leaves and some ferns (*Polystichum* or *Asplenium*).





Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) gives a short-lived but always unforgettable spray of colour and works well in a deep corner of the garden. There are some great varieties of Californian lilacs (*Ceanothus*) that offer splashes of blue and a sweet sugary perfume, but they are a little tender and may not suit more inland locations. *Viburnum tinus* 'Eve Price' can make a tidy little hedge under a windowsill and produces a spray of tiny white flowers all the way to April. For a patio or balcony pot near your living room window, camelias will dazzle with their rose-like flowers.





In our Cairn front gardens, we always plant a wide selection of small spring blossoming trees, such as magnolia – Magnolia kobus and ‘Stellata’ are solid varieties. Amelanchiers and Viburnum lantana also put on a good show. The pear tree (Pyrus calleryana ‘Chanticleer’) is ideal for an urban garden and by the time it flowers in late April you know that Summer is just around the corner.



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