

February 2022

Common snowdrop, *Galanthus nivalis* L.

from the Amaryllidaceae family (Amaryllis family).

Perennial herbaceous plant, the above-ground-parts of the plant are retracted until early summer. The bulb remains in the ground as a perenating organ. The basal, ribbon-shaped leaves are already fully developed at the time of flowering, bluish green and up to 15 cm long. The snowdrop shows its frostresistant flowers from February to March, these are individually nodding on the inflorescence stem. The flowers consist of 3 outer petals and 3 crown-like inner petals with a green spot at the tip. These enclose the ovary and stamens. It is an early pollen provider for bees.

Chemical compounds: alkaloids (galanthamine, lycorine)

The whole plant is slightly poisonous.

The snowdrop is found in moist deciduous forests and riparian forests, preferably on calcareous soil. It is a protected plant and must never be dug up.

Different varieties are commercially available. In the garden, snowdrops prefer nutrient-rich soil, semi-shady locations, such as under deciduous shrubs, are ideal. Dryness and waterlogging should be avoided. The bulbs are planted in autumn and kept moist. If the snowdrop feels at home in its location, it can colonise large areas of the garden for years.

