

## Message from The President



It's exciting to see the many signs of spring in our garden. Along with the longer days, the snowdrops (from Elaine Petersen's garden), and iris reticulata are in full bloom in our yard. These photos appear on page 2. Soon to emerge are the hyacinths and daffodils from previous LGC Bulb Sales. I'm sure we all have lots of plans for the garden this year, mine include starting to clear out some of the winter interest to make room for the new growth on the perennials and shrubs. With the warmer days I noticed a few overwintering bugs have started to emerge from the dried plant material. I even saw the first mosquito of the season - more food for the birds.

Thanks to all of the members who helped with the spring cleanup at the Blue Star Memorial Garden organized by Mary Ainger and Jan Stefans. It looks beautiful with the many plants starting to green up. I was cutting back the hydrangeas and a resident walked up to me and mentioned how thankful they are for the beautiful garden. In thanking him for his gracious comments, I explained that this project has been a good example of a successful joint effort between LGC and the Village. It's wonderful to know that the residents appreciate our efforts.

We had a good March meeting where Kim Hartmann presented another comprehensive list of new colors and best plants and shrubs for our changing climate. I liked her list of new conifers, they were smaller, a much better scale for our garden adding variety to promote biodiversity. This was another great and informative presentation, thank you Helen Wilson.

The spirit of spring is all about hope, love, and joyful living. I hope you all enjoy it with family and friends.

In friendship,  
Kathleen Abdo

## April Program

### "What Is All The Buzz about Bees?"

Brian and Karen Thomson



Thursday, April 17, 2025

Continental Breakfast – 9:30 AM

Business Meeting – 9:45 AM

Program – 10:30 AM

Brian and Karen are beekeepers in the Barrington area who have over 50 hives and operate the Honey Lake Bee Company. Their talk will cover many interesting facts about honeybees and bee friendly plants.

Karen has a BS in horticulture from Iowa State University. She has been an instructor for community colleges as well as for the Chicago Botanic Garden. In addition, she has been published in Midwest Living. Her husband, Brian, who started beekeeping when he was 10 years old, also has a bachelor's degree in horticulture. Attend and see what the 'buzz' is all about?

## In This Issue

Plant Education— Primroses

Lunar Eclipse

District IX Awards for LGC

National Geographic News

The Cooldown—Feeding Birds in Winter

The Best Companion Plants to Pair with Roses

Hyacinth's—Who Knew?

Message from the Editor

# Plant Education— Primroses

with Kay Siess

**Primroses mark the start of spring!**

The name comes from “prima rosa” meaning “first rose” in Latin.



## Key Characteristics

- Various colors and are sometimes fragrant.
- Low growing.
- Clusters of 5 1-inch petals.
- Leaves are wrinkled and form rosette patterns.
- Hardy in zones 3-8.
- Used in borders, woodland gardens, and containers.



## Easy to Grow

- Partial Shade
- Moist soil
- Fertilize in spring
- Mulch to keep moist
- Deadhead to encourage further blooms.



## Symbolism



- Associated with youth, renewal, and optimism.
- The phrase “the primrose path” is often used to describe a life of pleasure and ease.

## Irish Folklore:

Primroses in a doorway were believed to protect the home from fairies.



**Welcome Spring!**



## Kathleen's Irises and Snowdrops





## Lunar Eclipse

Steven Wagner, son of 1st VP of Ways & Means, Jana Wagner, took this spectacular photo through a telescope in Florida on Thursday, March 13th.



## District IX Awards Received on March 17, 2025



# National Geographic News

## 1 in 5 butterflies in the U.S. have disappeared in the last 20 years

Researchers identified over 100 species that have dropped by more than 50 percent in the last two decades: "This is a wake-up call."

According to a landmark study published today in the journal *Science*, total butterfly abundance in the U.S. has [declined by 22 percent](#) across all species between 2000 and 2020.

"This is a wake-up call. People should be seeing this number and being very, very concerned, not just about butterflies, but about the state of insects in general," says [Eliza Grames](#), a conservation biologist at Binghamton University in New York and coauthor of the study.

While insects are notoriously difficult to sample across broad geographic areas, more research has gone into monitoring butterflies than any other insect group. Events like the [North American Butterfly Association's](#) annual Fourth of July butterfly count have also helped bolster these counts.

Across 35 monitoring programs, scientists and volunteers have identified 12.6 million butterflies from 554 species at 2,478 unique locations. And Grames and her colleagues were able to use those data to conduct the most expansive butterfly population analysis ever for the U.S.

Initially, Grames says she expected to see declines for many species, but that once all the data was scaled up to cover the entire nation, she also expected to see enough increases to wash out the bad news. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

"It's kind of an overwhelming amount of loss and decline," she says.

### Even common species are in trouble

Lest you think the widespread declines are attributable to a handful of little-known species that were already close to extinction, the scientists found that 13 times as many butterfly species were in decline compared to those that were increasing.

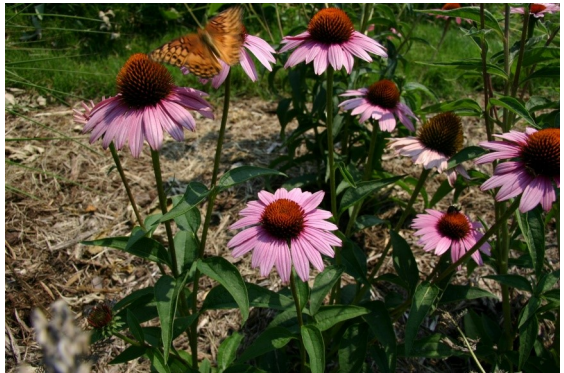
The reality may be even worse than the story the numbers tell. Even with the vast number of observations included in the study, the scientists only had enough data to conduct species-level analyses for just over half of the butterflies found in the U.S. Huge portions of the Mountain-Prairie region had almost no data at all.

"Which means that the ones that we're able to do the analyses for are already probably doing better off than the ones that we don't have data for," says Grames. "Because they're more common. We're able to actually monitor and observe them from year to year."

This means that for the other half, it's possible they've already slipped below an inflection point where we no longer observe them regularly in monitoring programs, she says.

Of course, butterflies are not the only insects in danger, and their declines connect to bigger concerns. "I think it is broadly indicative of the overall biodiversity crisis," says Grames.

Mayfly numbers [have been cut in half](#), agricultural fields are now [48 times more toxic to bees](#), and every year global insect populations are [estimated to drop between one and two percent](#).



## The Cooldown—Photo Credit: Reddit



Gardener shares photo of unexpected guests lingering in snow-covered backyard: 'Another example of why plants are so important to birds in the winter'.

Gardener shares photo of unexpected guests lingering in snow-covered backyard: "Another example of why plants are so important to birds in the winter," the first OP wrote in the caption. "These Liatris are acting as natural bird feeders."



Liatris, also known as blazing star or gayfeather, are flowering plants native to North America. The perennials appear dead during winter but bloom again in spring. They're known for their bright purple flowers and are popular with pollinators, per the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Pollinators are key to plants' life cycles. At least 75% of all flowering plants on Earth are pollinated by birds, bees, insects, and bats, according to the National Park Service. That includes 1,200 food crops and 180,000 plant species, all of which play a part in helping feed people, stabilize soil, provide oxygen and clean air.

Native plants are an easy addition to any lawn, as they require less maintenance than the typical monoculture grass lawn. As the National Audubon Society explains, since they are already adapted to their environment, they need less water, less fertilizer,

and less pesticides, and if you're skipping out on grass, there's no need to run a noisy, pollution-emitting lawnmower to keep them tidy. Apart from saving resources including water and fuel, you also save money.

A commenter even noted that letting their similar plants just do their thing saved them a trip outside in winter. "I went out to trim back some dead stuff and the birds were actively harvesting seeds. I turned around and went right back inside, have never cut back dead growth again until spring," they wrote.

Another Redditor noted: "You also get SO MUCH more Liatris when you let it seed!! No more paying \$18/plant!!" "It's a beautiful moment when you can observe your work making an impact like this — so encouraging!!" one more plant lover commented on the second post.



## "April Showers Bring May Flowers"

The full saying is "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers," and it's a proverb that suggests that even after periods of hardship or unpleasantness, good times will follow.

**Origin:** The saying can be traced back to a poem written by Thomas Tusser in the 1500s, with the lines "Sweet April showers do spring May flowers".

**Meaning:**

Nature: The saying can be traced back to a poem written by Thomas Tusser in the 1500s, with the lines "Sweet April showers do spring May flowers".

Metaphor: It's also used as a metaphor to suggest that after a period of hardship or adversity, good times will eventually come.



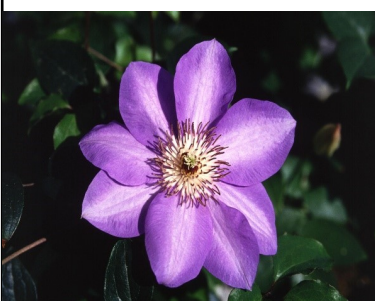
## The Best Companion Plants to Pair With Roses -- Real Simple

Roses offer classic beauty that has mesmerized poets and artists for centuries. If you have a rose garden, companion plants can make your roses even more visually striking while providing practical benefits like warding off pests and diseases. Ideal companion plants thrive in similar conditions to roses, with full sun and well-draining soil. Gardening experts suggest the best companion plants for roses to make your garden a stunning, lush landscape.



**Lavender** (*Lavendula* spp.) is an herbaceous perennial that's easy to grow and its blue-purple hues are complementary to roses. "Plants with shades of blue make great complements to typical rose colors," says Tom Soulsby, senior horticulturist at Chicago Botanic Garden. "Blues found in lavender are appropriate if soil and light conditions permit." "Lavender is thought to deter pests such as aphids and whiteflies. "Planting lavender near the borders of your rose garden is also a great way to attract pollinators." Lavender thrives in

**Boxwoods** (*Buxus* spp.) are versatile green shrubs that create a perfect backdrop for roses, offering structure and texture for your landscape. "Boxwoods can either be used in a parterre application, or as a beautiful backdrop to the garden and roses within it," says Helaine Vrana, plant buyer at landscaping company R.P. Marzilli & Company. "Their texture creates a wonderful curtain effect allowing the rose's color to pop." They can also be more easily shaped than other evergreens, she adds. These evergreens can grow in full or partial sun and prefer well-draining soil.



**Clematis** (*Clematis* spp.), also called leather flowers, are low-maintenance climbing plants with blooms that come in many colors. "There are so many varieties and colors of this vine, which I like to use to climb and mingle with roses on pillars, arbors, and walls," Soulsby says. "Some cultivars also nicely scramble along the ground, creating a unique ground cover." These hardy, disease-resistant perennials offer pops of color to complement roses. Like roses, clematis grow well in sunny conditions with well-draining soil.

Catmint (*Nepeta* spp.) is a [perennial ornamental herb](#) that can protect your roses by bringing in beneficial predators. "Catmint is a great plant for attracting natural pollinators and beneficial predators," Dillmore says. "Natural predators are a smart addition to your rose garden to help reduce any pests that may be attacking your roses."

According to Dillmore, there are many catmint varieties available and many have a trailing, ground cover growth habit—all varieties will contrast well with your rose blooms. This easy-to-grow plant thrives in well-draining soil and can grow in full to partial sun. Catmint's small flowers come in shades of lavender, white, or pink, offering long-blooming bursts of color to complement roses.



## The Best Companion Plants to Pair With Roses -- Real Simple



Marigolds (*Tagetes* spp.) are [colorful annuals](#) that offer pest-detering properties that can benefit roses.

“Marigolds are often planted in vegetable gardens specifically to deter pests,” Dilmore explains. “They are one of the best plants for natural help deterring nematodes and whiteflies. Roses can be a magnet for pests like aphids and Japanese beetles, so planting annuals that have some pest-detering qualities may help.” Marigolds flourish with plenty of sunshine and well-draining soil.



Geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.) are a versatile flowering plant that provides pops of color in shades of red, pink, purple, orange, and white.

“Geraniums [bloom all summer long](#),” Dilmore says. “They are known to help deter pests like Japanese beetles and aphids. There are endless varieties available and different vibrant versions of pink, white, red, salmon, and purple.” To grow geraniums, plant them in a sunny spot with 6 to 8 hours of sunlight and organically rich, well-draining soil.

## Hyacinths—Who Knew?

•**Symbolism** – Hyacinths symbolize **rebirth, peace, and beauty**, but different colors have unique meanings. For example, **blue hyacinths** represent sincerity, **purple hyacinths** signify regret, and **red or pink ones** symbolize love and playfulness.

•**Greek Mythology Connection** – The flower’s name comes from the Greek myth of **Hyacinthus**, a beautiful youth loved by the gods Apollo and Zephyrus. When Hyacinthus was accidentally killed, Apollo transformed his spilled blood into the first hyacinth flower.

•**Strong Fragrance** – Hyacinths are known for their **intense, sweet scent**, which can be almost overpowering in enclosed spaces. Their fragrance makes them a favorite for perfumes and scented oils.

•**Toxicity** – While beautiful, hyacinths contain **calcium oxalate crystals**, making them toxic to humans and pets if ingested. The bulbs, in particular, can cause skin irritation and stomach upset if eaten.

•**Early Spring Blooms** – Hyacinths are one of the **first flowers to bloom in spring**, often emerging in March or April, making them a sign that warmer days are near.

•**Bulb Dormancy** – After blooming, hyacinths need a period of dormancy where their leaves die back. They store energy in their bulbs for next season’s growth.

•**Variety of Colors** – Hyacinths come in a range of stunning colors, including **blue, purple, pink, red, white, yellow, and even peach**.

•**Historical Popularity** – During the 18th century, hyacinths were **extremely popular in Europe**, particularly in the Netherlands, where they were cultivated in large numbers alongside tulips.

•**Pollinator Attraction** – Their fragrant flowers attract **bees and butterflies**, making them a great choice for pollinator-friendly gardens.

\***Used in Festivals** – In Iran, hyacinths are an important part of **Nowruz**, the Persian New Year, where they are included in the traditional **Haft-Seen** table setting.



## GCI News

To access the Members Only Page  
on the GCI Website



Go to the Member Information Tab  
and enter the Password: **GardenClub22**

## Message from the Editor

Dear Friends,

Please accept my apology for this month's issue being late. I have gone back to work on assignment in Minnesota and have found it hard to complete my LGC assignments on time:)

I can't wait for the Garden Clubs of Illinois State Convention in Lisle on Sunday and Monday, April 27 and 28. The Lincolnshire Garden Club has eight members attending! We are all looking forward to learning about how gardens and garden clubs can serve as hubs for community engagement and environmental stewardship. We will meet other garden club members, share ideas and have fun! I'll share photos from the convention in the next issue of the Flower Press.

By the way, I am still looking for the next Flower Press Editor—and I know you are out there! It's fun to share news of the contributions we make to improve Lincolnshire and Lake County. I will help you for the first few months as you get acclimated with the position. We need a newsletter, so please consider leading this Standing Committee for 2025-26.

Finally, thank you to the contributors of this month's issue: Kathleen Abdo, Kay Siess, Jana Wagner and Helen Wilson.

All the best,

Nancy

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2024-2025

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### Social Media

Website: <https://lincolnshiregardenclub.com>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LincolnshireGardenClub>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lincolnshiregardenclub/?hl=en>

## ~ Our Mission Statement ~

The mission of the Lincolnshire Garden Club is to provide financial support to promote community beautification, nature restoration, environmental responsibility and to further the education of members and the public in the fields of ecology and conservation, home gardening, horticulture, landscape, and floral design.