11 Essential Flowers to Plant This Spring for Gorgeous Blooms

pring just might be our favorite season of the year. Sure, we're excited for warm weather, but it's getting into the garden—and planting flowers—that really brightens our spirits. Spring isn't just a time to add some color to your early-season garden; it's also when you can incorporate flowers that will bloom in summer and into fall and even those that come back each spring for years to come. Some of our favorite, and earliest, perennial blooms, such as snowdrops, winter aconite, daffodils, crocuses, tulips, and hyacinths, should be planted in the fall to grow in spring. But many flowering plants can go in the ground at the beginning of the growing season. These are 11 of our favorite flowers to plant in spring. 01 of 11 Bleeding Heart These gorgeous perennials cheer us with delicate strands of heart-shaped, pink, and white flowers against attractive serrated leaves from early spring through early summer. Mix compost into the soil before planting, and add organic mulch like bark or hay around the base of the plant afterward to help hold in moisture and enrich the soil over time. When the leaves begin to yellow in summer, you can cut the plants back to return the following spring. 02 of 11 Hellebore One of the earliest late-winter bloomers, hellebore—also called Lenten rose—offers lush, low-growing foliage and colorful, nodding blooms in shades of pink, red, purple, green, yellow, and white. Add organic compost when planting to enrich the soil. Plant in early spring, and keep the plants well-watered their first season. After that, they're pretty drought-tolerant, only requiring water in extended hot, dry periods. 03 of 11 Bloodroot Native to the eastern United States, bloodroot makes a lovely addition to any perennial garden. This low-growing, late-winter bloomer is one of the first plants to flower. Divide bloodroot in fall or early spring, then transplant to create additional plantings. It's also cultivated commercially for its medicinal properties. 04 of 11 Virginia Bluebell This colorful native species is perfect for adding color to shady areas of your garden. Best of all, butterflies love to visit the colorful, bell-shaped blooms. Add compost to the soil a week before planting rhizomes or transplants in early spring, and keep the plants well-watered—they love moisture. You can also plant Virginia bluebells from seed in fall or in spring, roughly two months before your last frost date, as the seeds need a period of cold to germinate. 05 of 11 Stonecrop Also known as sedum or ice plant, these succulent perennials sporting clumps of tiny pink flowers will be happy in parts of your yard that other plants won't. They thrive in rocky areas (hence the name!) with moderate to low soil fertility, and they're drought-tolerant, too. Plant in springtime for flowers that support pollinators like bees and butterflies from late summer to early fall. 06 of 11 Daylily Bright, cheerful daylilies aren't fussy about where to grow—they can be just as happy in a well-tended garden as they are in a ditch alongside a country road. Add compost to the soil before planting them in springtime, then use organic mulch to hold in soil moisture and keep weeds down. For darker-colored varietals, choose a spot with some afternoon shade, which will help them maintain their coloring.