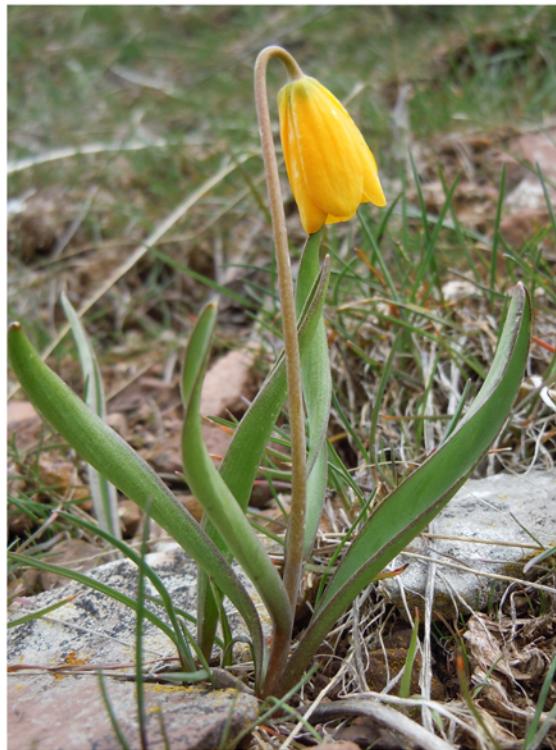


Pest Resistant Bulbs



For many among us who garden on the edges of communities, gardening can take on the additional challenge of sharing space with 4-legged creatures that view our garden with a different purpose. We are ever on the lookout for plants that are less desirable as a food source for our wildlife visitors. Here are some bulbs that resist grazing either because they are unpalatable to the taste, have a less desirable odor, or are poisonous to those who ingest them. *Ipheion uniflorum* or Star Flower is a miniature bulb that grows less than 5 or 6" tall. Its star-shaped flowers range from white to shades of blue and blooms late in spring. It is a great bulb for naturalizing and has performed very well in Red Butte Garden's Courtyard beds. *Leucojum aestivum* or Snowflake is a particular favorite of mine as it was heavily planted around the house where I grew up. It is less known on today's market but worth wider use. The foliage is similar to that of a Daffodil and the flowers are reminiscent of Lily-of-the-Valley, except they are larger, and have green tips. It typically grows to 1 to 1.5' tall. Gravetye Giant is a larger-flowered variety.

Fritillarias are a great companion bulb to those more tasty bulbs, like tulips, that you are unwilling to part with. Their skunk-like odor helps repel hungry munchers, but also warrants careful placement in the garden. There are many Fritillarias to choose from including the large Imperials that come in yellow, orange or red, and smaller bell-shaped varieties are available in a range of colors including yellow, white, purple, purplish brown and sometimes greenish tints. Narcissus or Daffodils are a great choice for pest resistance as they are poisonous when ingested. Today's selection of daffodils offers a wide variety of colors, sizes and flower shapes. A few cultivars are also fragrant, such as Baby Moon, Bridal Crown, and Geranium. *Crocus tommasinianus* is a species Crocus but not the one with which we are all too familiar. The flowers are usually creamy or grayish on the outside of the petals and violet, lilac, or reddish purple inside.