

Early hints of spring

At the start of a new year spring seems like a really long way off.

But keep your eyes peeled in January and February - Mother Nature leaves some clues to show that change is in the air and spring will soon be on the way!



Hazel catkins

These are the male flowers of the hazel tree. They're sometimes called lambs' tails.



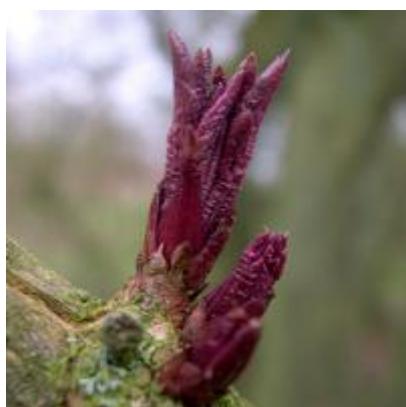
Snowdrops

One of the earliest bulbs to flower. Look out for them in damp woods and by streams.



Bluebell shoots

These pop up early to get as much light as possible before the tree canopy closes over.



Elder budburst

The elder is one of the first trees to sprout leaves. Look out for its dark red buds bursting open.



Primrose

Spot primroses in woods, meadows and hedgebanks, where they like damp and shade.



Lesser celandine

Look out for these shiny yellow flowers and heart-shaped leaves covering woodland floors.



Birds building nests

Keep your eyes peeled for blackbirds and rooks carrying materials for nest-building.



Bird song

Listen out for birds like the song thrush tweeting that spring is on the way.



Frogspawn

Look for balls of jelly in ponds, ditches and slow-moving streams. The black specks are eggs.



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