



The Change of Seasons

March 4, 2019

By Lydia Holley

The seasons change slowly, fighting for control. The youngest, strongest season always wins, but not without a few last-minute punches from the old one. This is what happens in late February/early March. Winter refuses to budge, but Spring continues to push him off his throne until he relinquishes.

Even when the days feel like winter, there are signs of Spring's arrival, and the ultimate victory. Daffodils bloom. I plant daffodils outside my garden beds, in the grass, just as my great-grandmother did. Hers have multiplied to the extent that her entire front yard is a field of yellow in early spring. My father loved the fragrant jonquils; their sweet scent forecasts the summertime aromas of honeysuckle, jasmine, and gardenia.

The saucer magnolia, or tulip tree (*Magnolia x soulangeana*), arrives early to the celebration, displaying its regal dress. Lavender petticoats peak from behind royal robes of purple petals as its blooms dance in the wind. Muscari bulbs emerge, offering jewels of amethyst and sapphire. Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) sets a feast for hungry hummingbirds as they migrate northward.

Pansy faces form a crowd to witness the change of seasons. Bridal wreath spireas (*Spiraea prunifolia*) offer their virginal sprays of blooms. Hellebores curtsy, while violets stand on tip-toes, looking for a glimpse of Spring's arrival. Moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) rolls out the welcome mat.

Cemetery irises (*Iris albicans*) offer condolences to winter's departure, while fern fronds unfurl. As the soil warms, other plants join in, heralding the new king, Spring. Even the gardener bows to the season, bent over pulling weeds.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com, or visit txmg.org/hendersonmq.



Saucer Magnolia