

## Marchant's Snowdrops - 2016 (www.marchantshardyplants.co.uk)

**Marchants Hardy Plants, 2 Marchant's Cottages, Mill Lane, Laughton, East Sussex, BN8 6AJ**

The unprecedented earliness of Snowdrops this year means we will not be holding our annual week – end sale which in 'normal' years usually takes place in the third week of February. However, as we **do not offer a mail order service** we have decided to offer a **Collection only Service** which we hope some of you will find of use. **Please see terms below.**

Marchants is a thriving perennial /grasses nursery but I have grown Snowdrops affectionately for over 35 years, 18 of them here at Marchants. We are not 'Twin Scalpers', more hobbyists and our principal concern has been to add good garden worthy snowdrops to our collection. As bystanders we have looked upon the Snowdrop revolution with amusement as well as bemusement. With irony too. Have you noticed how over the years, the more unlike a Snowdrop becomes the greater its price tag increases. At its most serious level it has become a hobby for very deep pockets.

**Collection of Snowdrops from Marchants.** Plants will be made available for collection until **29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.** Write your name, address and order of snowdrops clearly and post to the above address. Also include your contact phone number/email address so that a mutually convenient time for collection can be arranged. **Please note:** We require at least 3 days notice for the collection of orders.

**Payment: Cheque payment with order.** The minimum order total is **£35.00.** Please enclose a cheque with your order made payable to '**Graham Gough**'. No enclosed cheque - no order. Simple! We will not supply substitutes so it is essential to use the 'Limited Cheque' method - ie. write 'not to exceed --' followed by the total of your order between the two vertical lines on your cheque.

A number of the bulbs below are in short supply and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Bulbs offered are best quality, believed to be true to name and are priced per bulb. Descriptions are necessarily brief. For fuller descriptions we would refer you to Aaron.P.Davis' meaty tome 'The Genus Galanthus' (Timber Press), 'Snowdrops' by Matt Bishop, Aaron Davis and John Grimshaw published by the The Griffin Press and of course the internet.

### Availability list 2016

#### Species

<b>G. allenii.</b> A green leaved convolute. Beautifully shaped, scented flowers. ....	£9.00
<b>G. elwesii ex Herbert Ransome.</b> Large flower, short stature. A distinct snowdrop and one of our great favourites. Given to me by Dr R. Mackenzie. ....	£7.50
<b>G.e. 'Ivy Cottage Green Tip'.</b> ....	£7.50
<b>G. e. 'Peter Gatehouse'.</b> A very early elwesii cheering us in Oct./Nov. ....	£8.00
<b>G. e. var monostictus ex Platt.</b> An extremely refined, no frills Snowdrop. ....	£8.00
<b>G. e. 'Plummet'.</b> Our own fine seedling, strong, upright with very long pedicel. Certainly distinct in our own collection. 2006, a seedling of 'Chelsworth Magnet'? ....	£17.50
<b>G. e. var mon. 'Roger's Rough'.</b> V. large & early Jan. flowering snowdrop. ....	£7.00
<b>G. e. 'Yvonne Hay'.</b> A bonny lass, big, bold and beautiful. ....	£15.00
<b>G. nivalis 'Anglesey Abbey'.</b> A most curious nivalid, green leaved & poculiform. ....	£6.00
<b>G. n. 'Ginns' imperati'.</b> Arguably the most highly scented snowdrop (of mountain Honey). Good constitution. ....	£7.50
<b>G. n. 'Greenish'.</b> An old, uncommon green cultivar. Being a nivalis, quite small. ....	£15.00

(continued)

<b>G. n. 'S. Arnott'</b> .....	£4.00
<b>G. n. 'Scharlockii'</b> . Brought from Washfield. Has always remained v. small with me. ...	£4.00
<b>G. n. 'Tiny'</b> . The smallest snowdrop we grow. Came with me from Washfield and has been maintained as a clone for 30 years. ....	£4.00
<b>G. n. 'Wonston Double'</b> . A charming small nivalis with incredibly tight, neat double flowers. ....	£7.50
<b>G. plicatus 'Augustus Seedling'</b> . Vigorous with bold puckering and solid green inners. Our own selection. ....	£12.50
<b>G. p. 'Dumpy'</b> . Given to me by Dr R. MacKenzie in 2006 under this name. Short, broad leaf and very pleasant. Questionable name?.....	£10.00
<b>G. p. 'Patricia Ann'</b> . Short, wide leaved form with basal/apical markings. Rare. ....	£8.50
<b>G. woronowii</b> . A green leaved convolute. A fine garden plant and distinct.....	£4.00

### **Hybrids and forms**

<b>G. 'Colossus'</b> . From Colesbourne, a bold December/January snowdrop with a deep sinus mark. As the name implies, a very large snowdrop. ....	£10.00
<b>G. 'Clare Blakeway-Phillips'</b> . Virus is a moot point with this plant. It has been a favourite of ours for years and grows well. And all the other virused snowdrops? .....	£8.00
<b>G. 'Faringdon Double'</b> . A Oxford graveyard find, fairly regular doubling and, encouraged by Global warming, very early (December this year). ....	£9.00
<b>G. 'Fussy'</b> . A squat fellow (plicatus subsp. Byzantinus) with broad, silver channelled leaves & small flowers with a broad green X mark on inner segments. ....	£12.50
<b>G. 'Galatea'</b> . A benchmark single 'rediscovered' in the 1970's. ....	£6.00
<b>G. 'Ketton'</b> . An old classic cultivar and a super garden plant. Subtle markings including a very slender Chinese Bridge sinus mark. ....	£7.00
<b>G. 'Lady Beatrix Stanley'</b> . An early neat double with pinched outers. A characterful snowdrop easy to recognise at a distance. ....	£4.50
<b>G. 'Lapwing'</b> . Intricate inner marking. Much sought after. ....	£13.50
<b>G. 'Lerinda'</b> . An early 'Arnott' type, large flowered. ....	£4.50
<b>G. 'Lime Tree'</b> . An atkinsii type - a strong upstanding snowdrop with great vigour .....	£4.00
<b>G. 'Modern Art'</b> . An E.B.Anderson selection now old, similar to viridapicis. ....	£17.50
<b>G. 'Peg Sharples'</b> . A late convolute with an X mark on the inner segments .....	£7.50
<b>G. 'Shepton Merlin'</b> . Pale ovary, solid green inners paling to base. Beautiful. ....	£7.50
<b>G 'Sibbertoft White'</b> . Exquisite small snowdrop, almost poculiform with faintest sinus mark. Uncommon. ....	£12.50
<b>G. 'Straffan'</b> . An old Irish snowdrop, beautifully shaped and regularly producing a second scape giving it a long season. A must have in any snowdrop collection. ....	£5.00
<b>G. 'Wrightson's Double'</b> . A unique, neat, chunky elwesii double. Scarce .....	£12.00

**ADDITIONS:** We also have very small numbers of the following 'specials' available. Democracy and fairness prevail so strictly limited to 1 bulb per customer, first come first served.

<b>G. elwesii 'Don Armstrong'</b> .....	£60.00
<b>G. elwesii 'Washfield Form'</b> .....	£25.00
<b>G. 'Golden Plummet'</b> .....	£25.00
<b>G. 'Trym'</b> .....	£15.00
<b>G. 'Washfield Colesborne'</b> .....	£17.50

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### ***Snowdrops and their cultivation***

Snowdrops are not difficult to grow but it is worth observing a few rules of thumb. They do not enjoy dense shade, nor do they like stagnant, badly drained soil. Good drainage is therefore a must. Acid or lime soils seem to make little difference – they can flourish on both. That said, they prosper on thin chalk soils, encouraging for those of you who garden on this hungry type of soil. Dappled shade can also be advantageous though many Snowdrops will also prosper in full sun. The fact is they are very amenable and associate well with virtually all late winter and early spring flowering plants.

When your bulbs begin to clump (3/4 years), you can then increase your stock by dividing them. Clumps left to their own devices can 'go back' or worse still, die out altogether. Division usually takes place when plants are 'In the green', during or after flowering (though most books will tell you to do it after). We have noticed little difference. Having gently teased a clump apart, it is important to plant at the same depth or deeper if the bulbs have risen to the surface, adding a little bone meal /seaweed meal to help give your snowdrops a good re-start. On heavy soils the addition of sharp grit is efficacious. Any remaining nurture should be left to Mother nature. Lastly, always label your snowdrops well. Push labels into the soil in front of and behind your clumps. You then have 2 reference points.