

Signs of spring

As the nights become lighter from the winter solstice on 22 December, there are lots of signs to look out for as spring starts to slowly reappear. New signs of life emerge from the cold; bulbs begin to sprout, small mammals awaken from their winter hibernations and you will start to hear songbirds singing at dawn.



Swallows and chiffchaffs migrate back to the UK in mid-March. Other birds like house martins and willow warblers soon follow. Listen for the distinctive sound of drumming great spotted woodpeckers, a sure sign of spring.

Keep your eyes open for spring butterflies. Small tortoiseshell and peacock start to appear as early as February. Brimstone, red admiral and comma spread their wings in March.

New buds and shoots start to appear on trees as the seasons start to change. Look out for ash and beech trees first as new life starts to grow.



Bulbs start to poke through the soil adding pockets of colour to our green spaces sometimes as early as January, with snowdrops, crocus appearing first. Look out for daffodil shoots appearing soon after, before coming into flower in early spring.



Mini beasts start to show their faces as the days get slightly warmer. Look out for spiders, ladybirds, beetles and queen bumblebees who are looking for nectar.

Furry friends like bats, dormice, and hedgehogs start to venture out for food from early March.