

Spring Wildflowers

By Marty Miller

What is a flower?

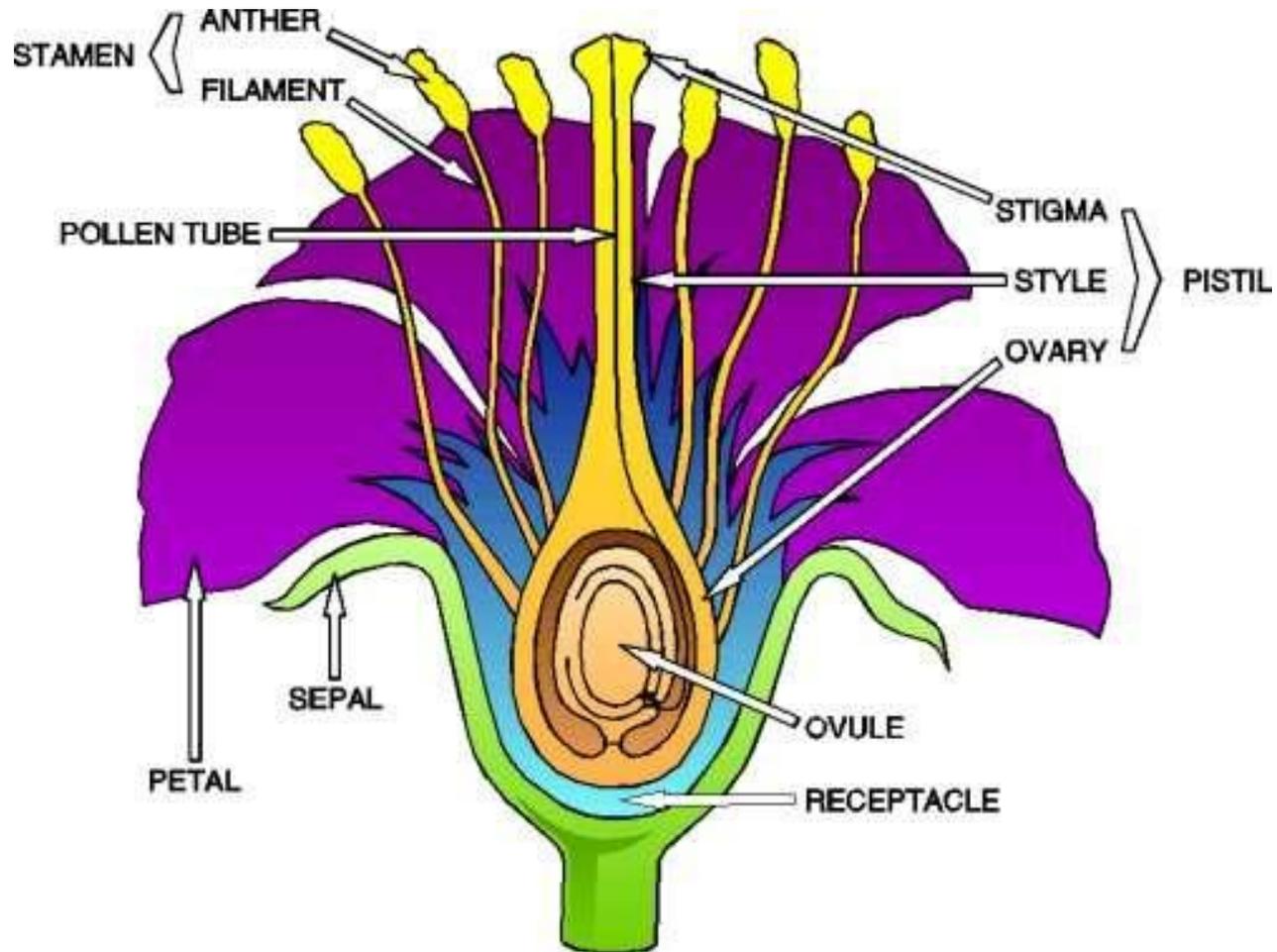


What is the purpose of a flower?

Flowers have but one goal – producing seed



Typical Flower



Flower Types...

the Monocots and Dicots

Monocots				
				
One cotyledon	Veins usually parallel	Vascular bundles usually complexly arranged	Fibrous root system	Floral parts usually in multiples of three
Embryos	Leaf venation	Stems	Roots	Flowers
Dicots				
				
Two cotyledons	Veins usually netlike	Vascular bundles usually arranged in ring	Taproot usually present	Floral parts usually in multiples of four or five

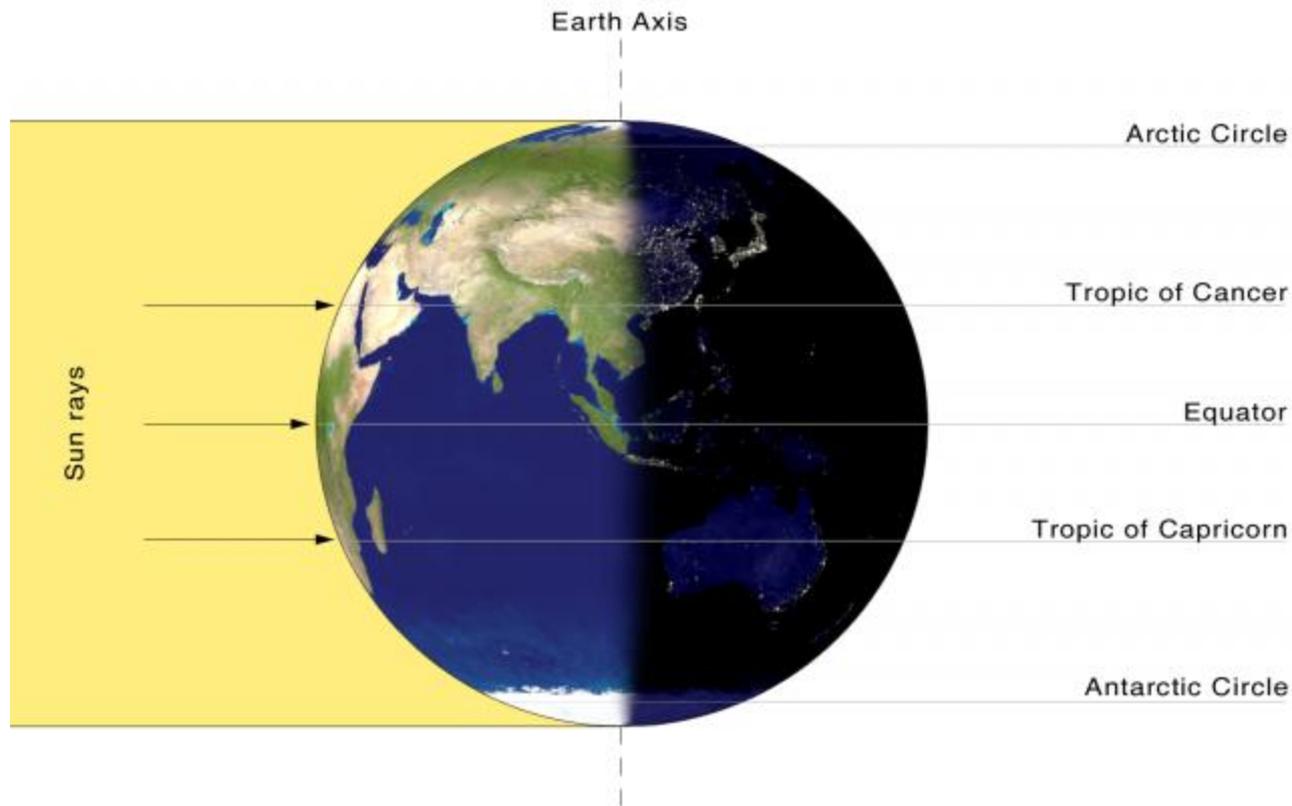
Early signs of spring:

- Spring Peeper frogs singing at night
- Migrating geese
- Blooming Hepatica



What is the first day of spring?

- Vernal Equinox or March 20 or 21
- Warming temperatures and lengthening days



Characteristics of most woodland spring wildflowers:



- Ephemeral... plants must emerge and bloom within weeks before forest canopy blocks sunlight.



- Perennial... live and grow for many years



- “Roots”... rhizomes, tubers, bulbs, or corms contain high energy starch for quick growth



- Protective chemicals so animals don't eat them; some have medicinal qualities



- Bloodroot – rhizome's red color due to poisonous sanguinarium



- Jack-in-the-pulpit – poisonous calcium oxalate crystals destroyed by cooking



- Mayapple – chemicals in rhizomes used for wart and cancer treatment



“And why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies! They don’t worry about theirs. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won’t he more surely care for you, O men of little faith?”

Matthew 6:28-30

Spiritual Symbolism of Flowers...



- Flowers are beautiful and attractive...we should be “beautiful” so that we attract others to Christ.



- Flowers are beautiful only for a short time...the external beauty of youth is transitory, inner beauty of character is eternal.



- Before a flower can produce fruit it must wither and “die”...we must “die” to self before we can bear fruit.



- The fruit that develops from flowers takes time to mature and sweeten...the longer we know Christ the sweeter we become.



Let's take a look at some of the more familiar spring wildflowers...

