

## My Garden Diary

APRIL 1998 by Joan Sargent

It was disconcerting to read in my garden diary of 1972 exactly the same words I was about to write in my 1998 journal, “more crocus needed in front, anemone blanda very cheery by the kitchen door, tulips nibbled...”

As I had a greenhouse and a vegetable garden then, most entries are not helpful to me now, but as I start seeds again this spring, I am reminded of how some germinated quickly and some never did.

I like a hard cover book with room for 3 or 4 years’ notes, with early, mid and late sections for each month.

You might not want to look back 25 years, but knowing when the Junkos come and go, when to expect the Bluebirds to be sitting on boxes, when the Chipmunks stop hibernating...all fit well in a garden diary. Was this the first snowless winter? No, it also happened in 1977. Does it often get to 70 degrees in March? Yes, in 1985. Can there be 4 feet of snow? Yes, in 1978. I forgot how well *Syringa meyerii* Palibin, a little leaf lilac forces, and to save Beech tree branch droppings for stakes, until my diary reminded me.

And in April, you don’t want to know what can happen... remember when all the daffodils were caught by snow and lay down, never to get up? If you haven’t got a diary now, start one. 25 years on you’ll be glad you did!

Ed. note: *We have tried to find photos of each for reference.*

**Joan Sargent**, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote about 24 gardening columns through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again.



Top photo: *Crocus*.

Above: *Anemone blanda*, also known as Grecian Windflower.

Below: *Syringa meyerii* Palibin, Dwarf Korean Lilac. Palibin is a compact, low-spreading cultivar which typically grows 4-5’ tall.

Bottom left: a Bluebird at its box.

