

James Common, 2023

A Simplified Key to Select Snowdrops (*Galanthus*)

Snowdrops are a familiar group of plants that hardly warrant introduction. Widespread in parks, woodland, churchyards, and amenity areas, they can, however, be rather diverse. This crib covers the species most likely to be encountered in North East England and a few others which may turn up in the future.

Leaves glaucous (blue green)	Leaves narrow (less than 6mm)	Flowers single	Common Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>)	Ovary golden-yellow as opposed to green	'Yellow' Common Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus nivalis</i> 'Sandersii Group')				
		Flowers double		Common Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus nivalis</i> 'Flore Pleno')				Leaves marginally broader than typical <i>G. nivalis</i> with some degree of pleating, often on one side only.	Common x Pleated Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus x valentinei</i>)
	Leaves broad (8mm or above)	Leaf bases wrapped	Giant Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus elwesii</i>)	Solid 'X' marking, solid green or spots at apex and base	Giant Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus elwesii</i>)			Leaves broad. Intermediate between <i>G. plicatus</i> & <i>G. elwesii</i> with shallow pleats and a hooded tip.	Giant x Pleated Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus x hybridus</i>)
		Leaf bases flatly opposed		Pleated Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus plicatus</i>)					
			Green spot at apex of the flower only	Subsp. <i>plicatus</i>					
			Green spots at both apex and base of flower	Subsp. <i>byzantinus</i>					
Leaves bright grass-green	Inner petals with a green 'V-shaped' mark	Green Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus woronowii</i>)							
	Inner petals with a green mark shaped like boxer shorts	Ikariae Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus ikariae</i>)							
Leaves with a central silver strip	Queen Olga's Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus reginae-olgae</i>)	Blooming in autumn, often absent leaves	Subsp. <i>reginae-olgae</i>						
		Blooming during late winter with other species	Subsp. <i>vernalis</i>						