

## Signs of Spring

How can you tell when spring is on the way?  
Keep your eyes and ears open for nature's signs of spring!



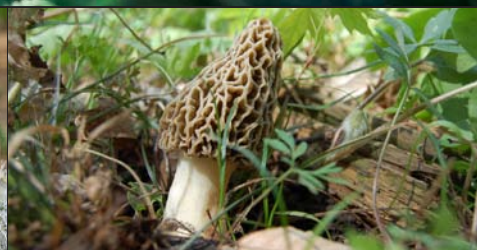
### What's all the buzz about?

Some bees survive over the winter as adults, such as bumble bee queens. Others emerge after being laid as eggs the previous year and developing over the winter. As temperatures warm and flowers start to bloom, you'll hear the air begin to buzz with these pollinator powerhouses.



### See my nest!

Spring is the time for birds to build a nest (or refurbish an old one) for their future families. If you follow a bird with a twig, moss, or other building materials in its beak, it just might lead you to the construction site!



### The morel of the story

We often think of mushrooms as a sign of autumn, but some species like morels pop up in spring. These fungi look a bit like honeycombs and can be found in areas where the earth has been disturbed or on sites where a forest fire has burned.



### Spring is in the air

The buds of cottonwood trees are covered in a sweet, fragrant resin that coats young leaves when they unfurl from the bud and fills the air with their scent. Cottonwoods can be found in moist areas. Cottonwoods release their seeds in cottony material to be carried by the wind, giving the tree its name.



### Hair we are

When temperatures begin to rise, mammals begin to shed the dense fur they grew over the winter to keep warm. As they emerge in their sleek new spring coats, you may find clumps of discarded fur caught on bushes, brambles, and fences.



### Get growing!

In southern coastal areas of BC, June plum (also known as Indian plum) begins putting out small white flowers in February. Swamp lantern (also known as Skunk cabbage) starts sending up bright yellow flowers in March. It can be found in swampy areas throughout BC. What is first to bloom in your area?



### A currant affair

Red-flowering currants put out their vibrant blooms between February and April. Rufus hummingbirds time their northward migration along the BC coast to coincide with this flowering. Anna's hummingbirds also feed enthusiastically on the nectar of these flowers.



### Radiant reptiles

Since reptiles are cold-blooded and can't make heat to stay active over the winter, they bury themselves and go into a sleep-like state called "brumation". Turtles do this at the bottom of ponds. As the weather warms, look for turtles basking in the sun on logs and flat rocks by the water's edge.



### Spring chorus

As wetlands thaw, listen for the sound of frog song. Pacific chorus frogs will call in large numbers to attract mates to a breeding site. As spring progresses, look for clusters of jelly-covered eggs submerged in water. Female frogs will lay between 500-1500 eggs in a season.

# Spring Colours in Nature

Every season brings a new palette of colours to the outdoors!  
Spring is a time for new life and new colours. What colours can you see springing up around you?



Red

Red-flowering currant



Orange

Salmonberry



Yellow

Swamp lantern



Green

Bracken fern



Blue

Mountain bluebird



Violet

Wild-flag



Brown

Morel fungus



Black

Common raven



White

June plum