



Featured Plant: **CROCUS** (*KRO-kuss*)

Flowering in February and March, crocus do not mind snow or freezing temperature. Slender grass-like foliage emerges followed by white, yellow, purple or striped flowers held about 4" to 6" high. After the flowers have faded, the foliage may continue to grow reaching up to 12" tall. Do not remove the foliage until it has turned brown. Plant bulbs in the fall, in full sun or partial shade or in shade around deciduous trees as crocus foliage should die back before trees leaf out. Plant in groups of 15 or more in borders, rock gardens, and along pathways.



In the Shade Garden, February 2011: group of *Crocus tommasinianus*; bee gathering pollen.



In the Shade Garden, mid-October 2010: green stink bug hiding in *Crocus speciosus*.

Forgot to plant crocus bulbs last fall? No worries, you still can have crocus flowers this year by planting autumn-blooming *Crocus speciosus* in late summer. Plant bulbs in full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil and amidst low ground cover for support. Enjoy 6" tall violet/blue/purple flowers in fall. They also will serve as reminders to plant spring-blooming crocus bulbs for next year's garden.