

International Rock Gardener

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IRG 158 March 2023



IRG 158 did not appear in February 2023 because there were no articles submitted. Once more I stress to all readers that without your submissions there can be no IRG. The IRG has brought diverse articles on practical projects to inspire you in your own garden, travelogues and botanical articles on new cultivars or species, newly described, over the last ten years. The magazine has been brought free to the internet and reaches an enormous world-wide audience – if you value this at all, please support the IRG by sending in your ideas for articles of general interest to [this email address](#). If you are also interested in your idea being forwarded to the editor of the SRGC print journal, The Rock Garden, just let me know and I will pass it on! It will be a delight to hear from you!

Happily, for this issue, I have now had a note from our Polish correspondent, Dr Krzysztof Ciesielski, about a Galanthus he is naming. Like many of us, Chris, (Dr Ciesielski) felt that much of his life, particularly outside work, was put on hold during the Corona Virus pandemic. He is now looking forward to a snowdrop hunting expedition in March with his wife, as they explore to find new variations in the wild. We are also lucky enough to have news of some newly named Galanthus from the bulb collection of Dr Dimitri Zubov, in Kyiv, Ukraine, a country that many of us feel great sympathy with, in their current fight against aggressors.

Margaret Young, Editor International Rock Gardener.

Cover image: Snowdrops in an Aberdeen wood, by J. Ian Young.



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--- Cultivar Description ---

***Galanthus nivalis* 'Lonely Island' - Krzysztof Ciesielski**

My wife and I found this inverse poculiform snowdrop in 2017 near Opole during our third exploration in search for snowdrops mutations. It received its name while writing the description. At first view I didn't find very different from many very similar forms. Its apical mark is not large and clear, but diffuse and subtle.

The plant is of moderate height and rather inconspicuous. Like an island in the middle of a lake seen from the opposite shore, this plant won't show its true beauty from a distance. It must be viewed up close to understand its beauty. The name cropped up when it survived a fungal disaster in the area it used to grow, which decimated and killed a lot of different snowdrops growing around it. Only this one stayed unharmed, when the "flood came and sunk many other islands" around. It is a strong, tolerant, but slow to increase plant.



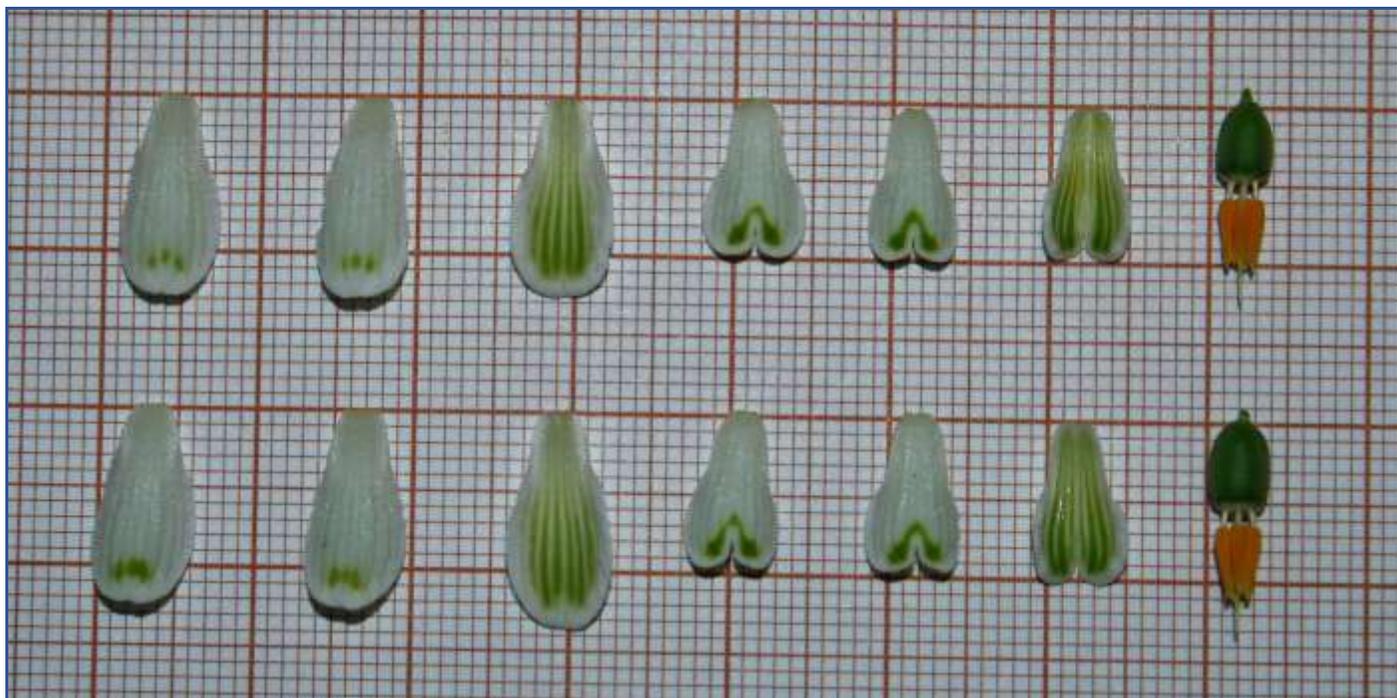
Galanthus nivalis 'Lonely Island'

DESCRIPTION

Flowering height at the beginning is 30-40mm, reaching up to 60-80 (90) mm at its peak. Two leaves - linear, narrowly lanceolate, greyish-green and parallel to the ground. Length during inflorescence 45-60mm and 4,5-6mm wide. Scapes upright. Ovary cylindrical, length:width

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approximately 7:4,5mm Flower shape – conical. Flower length including ovary approximately 20mm. Pedicel 95-10% the length of the straight spathe (30mm). All three outer segments are spoon-shaped 13-14mm long and 7-9mm wide, with a green apical mark shaped in a broad “U” line. The mark continues as green striations all the way to the base on the underside of the outer segments. The inner segments are heart shaped, rounded on the apex, l:w 10(11):5(6)mm, with usually an equilateral sinus 1-2mm deep. The inner petal mark is a broad green inverted “U”. On the underside of the inner segments, green striations are present, which cover the whole side except a broad side margin.



Galanthus nivalis 'Lonely Island' - floral parts.



Galanthus nivalis
'Lonely Island' with a
“regular” snowdrop in the
clump.

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--- New Galanthus growing in Ukraine ---

Dimitri Zubov describes three new snowdrops that give him pleasure.



Galanthus gracilis 'Sunnylad'

It was found as a single plant in March 2017 by my very good friend Sergey Gonchar around Ulubat Golu Lake near Bursa city in western Turkey. It clumps well by annual daughter bulbs. The plants are looking fantastic - compact, short, and sunny-yellow! Flowers harmonize perfectly with long and narrow, twisted, green glaucous leaves. Flower of a medium size, long pedicel, big ovary

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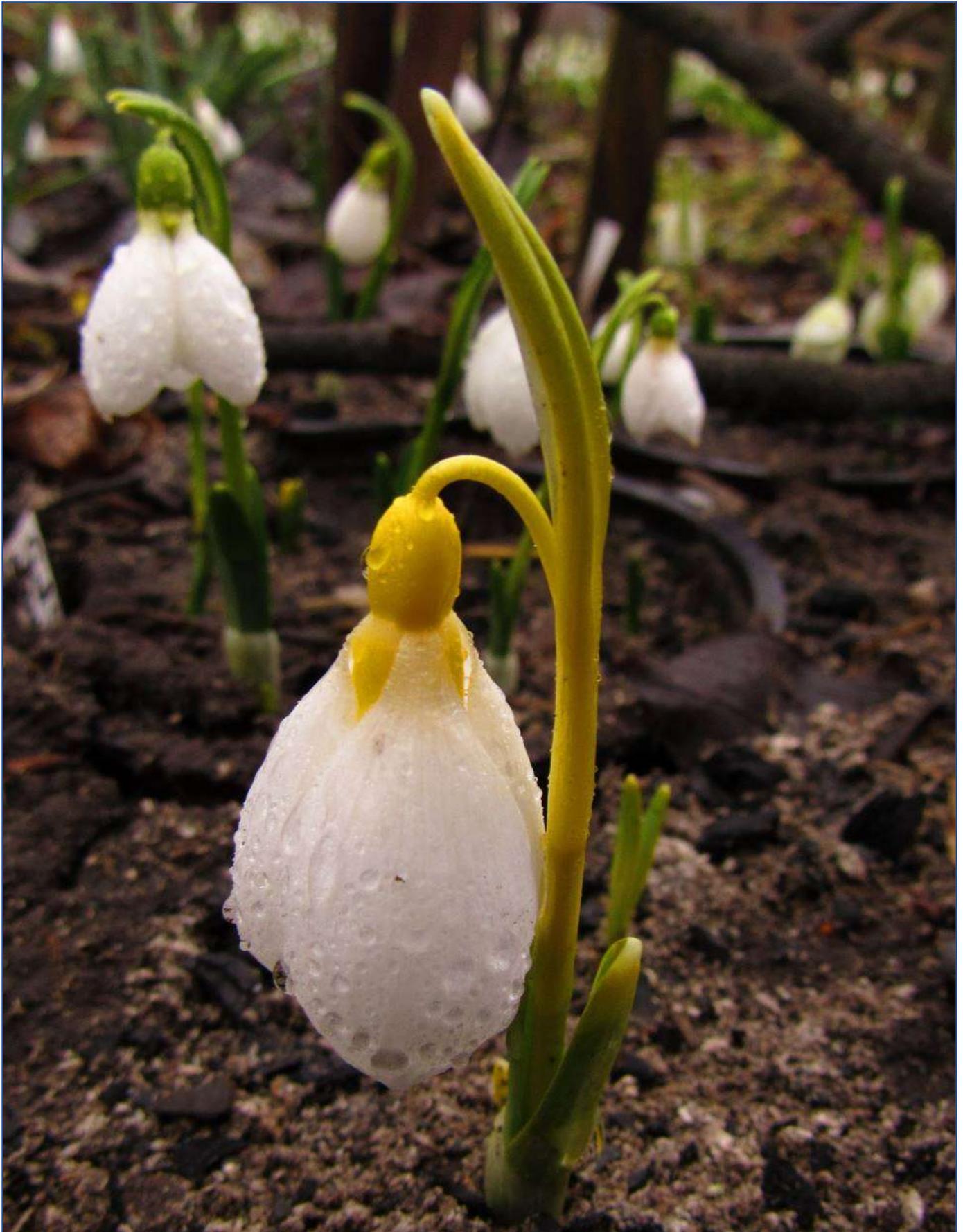
and inner perianth segment marking - bright yellow, strongly enhanced by cold weather during blooming period. It often produces two flower stalks per each mature bulb.



Galanthus gracilis 'Sunnylad'



Galanthus gracilis 'Sunnylad'



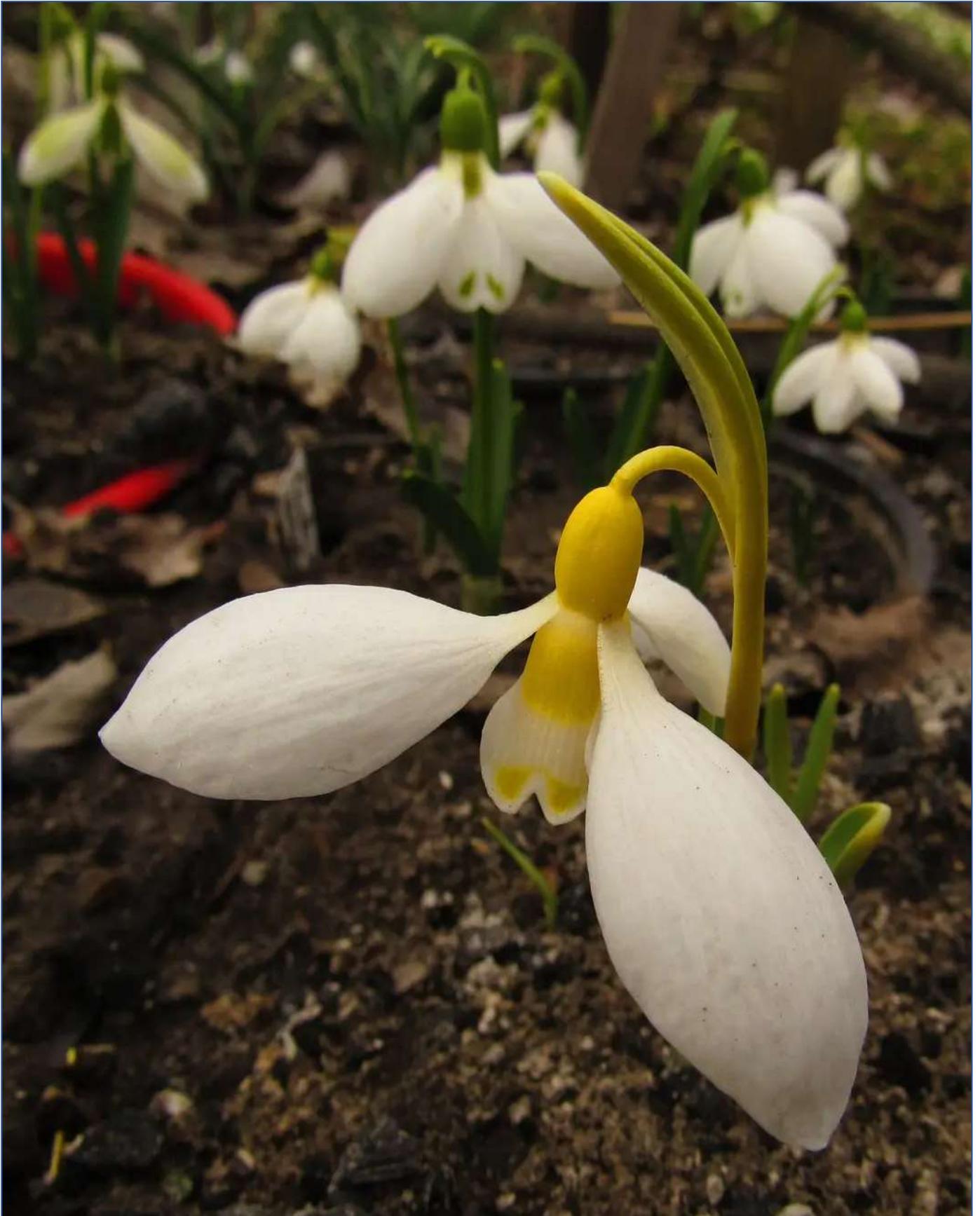
Galanthus graecus 'Strawpotter'

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Galanthus graecus 'Strawpotter'

What a keen eye he has, my friend Sergey! This one cultivar he noticed as well in March 2018 in Odessa region of Ukraine, not far from a border with Moldova. The huge flower appears and grows just before the foliage popped up. Both basal and apical inner segment marks, small ovary and short pedicel are bright yellow. As I've noticed in my area and climate, the yellow and virescent snowdrops do their best colouration during cold weather when in flower. The bulbs are naturally medium-sized with small caviar-like bulbils around a main bulb. It clumps slowly to moderately by annual daughter bulbs and minuscule bulbils as well. The foliage is bright green, slightly twisted.





Galanthus graecus 'Strawpotter'



Galanthus graecus 'Greenzzly'

A virescent, not very tall snowdrop found by me in March 2015 in the same oak forest in Odessa region, not far from a border with Moldova. Both foliage and huge flowers cooperate perfectly to show us an eye-catcher accent from far in the garden! The flower inner segments are fully green, outer segments have bright green, a perched cicada-like pattern, thus leaving the rounded top of the outers white. It clumps well by annual daughter bulbs, and as it is *G. graecus*, its bulbs are naturally medium-sized with small caviar-like bulbils around a main bulb. The foliage is green, glaucous, upright at the start of bloom. In my climate I prefer every year lifting of the *G. gracilis* and *G. graecus* bulbs with their summer dry storing at room temperature until planting in October. This significantly reduces the risk of development of winter molds and botrytis within snowdrop plantings, and also increases the multiplication coefficient of these cultivars.

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Galanthus graecus 'Greenzly'



Galanthus graecus 'Greenzly'