

A Feast for the Eyes

by Liz Gibbons

In February when the daylight hours are getting noticeably longer I begin to long for spring. As the days become warmer I am delighted when I see buds emerging on trees and perennial flowers beginning to arouse themselves.

When I lived in Atlanta spring was a riot of color that few other large cities can match. Atlanta is called “a city within a forest” because of its abundance of trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

A common bush is the azalea. It produces abundant showy flowers in numerous shades of red and pink in addition to white. Once it flowers the blooms last for several weeks. Different varieties bloom in early or late spring into summer, and the azaleas in our front yard would bloom again in the fall. Perennial flower beds burst into bloom with crocus, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and hydrangeas. Many homeowners also plant a variety of annual flowering plants. Pansies are a favorite as they can often survive through the winter. Spring time in Atlanta is indeed a feast for the eyes.

Yet I wonder if the delights of spring would impact me as much if it did not have the contrast of winter. In the fall I see trees shed their leaves and blooming plants wilt followed by the darkness, cold, and quietude of nature in winter. Then longer days and budding trees and flowers signal the beautiful transition and renewal that occurs in the spring and is always a season I gratefully welcome.