

# The Smell of Spring

March, normally our snowiest month, is the "transition zone" between our cold season and warm season in the Midwest. During this transition the greening of the landscape is a welcomed sight! This greening is what our jobs depend on, indeed what every living thing depends on. Photosynthesis is the most important chemical process known to man. It is not only an essential function of green plants themselves but is of the utmost significance to animals and man. It constitutes the sole ultimate source of food in the world.

March is the time of year to breathe in the smells of spring (those rejuvenating, promising smells this time of year.) If we could only keep those smells in our head and bring it back during the long winter months, like we bring back a favorite melody from our subconscious.

Spring officially comes March 20th or 21st on the vernal equinox where an exact second separates winter and spring. We unofficially define it when we once again can smell the earth, see the first crocus or daffodil and get asked by a golfer when we think the course will open. We define spring by sounds. It's announced by the birds defending territories and attracting mates. You can't help but be impressed how the Red-Winged Blackbirds know when to return to the cattail swamps, or when Canada geese know when to fly northward.

One of the ways I know spring is coming is how the sunlight shines through my windows. Each morning the sun moves a little farther to the left until its light comes through the entryway window and hits the braided rug. That's when I can proclaim it's spring.

All those signs of spring are something we don't get from radio, television or the newspapers. The smells, sounds and sights of spring, which sometimes seem to materialize overnight, make our golf courses come alive once again.

—Tom Johnson

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