



White Butterflies in Spring

by Sue Burgess

There are many proverbs and sayings concerned with Spring and the springtime. Lots of these are concerned with predicting the weather:



«**Papillon Blanc annonce le printemps**» (a white butterfly announces the spring). However «**une hirondelle ne fait pas le printemps**» (one swallow does not mean spring is here). Spring in France = Summer in England as flowers and trees are earlier here than in England. However «**si on tue toutes les hirondelles on n'empêche pas l'arrivée du printemps**» (even if you kill all the swallows you won't stop spring arriving). «**Pluie abondante pendant l'automne annonce printemps sec**». (Heavy rain during the autumn announces a dry spring). «**Printemps secs, été pluvieux**» (Dry spring, wet summer). «**Printemps tardif, précoce hiver**» (late spring, early winter).

Other sayings concern gardening and agriculture:

- «**Tailler tôt ou tailler tard, rien ne vaut la taille de mars**» (Prune early or late, nothing is better than pruning in March).
- «**Printemps pluvieux - beaucoup de foin et de blé peu**» (A rainy spring - a lot of hay and not much wheat).
- «**Quand, au printemps, la lune est claire, peu de noix espère, - Si la lune est trouble, la noix redouble.**» (When the moon is clear in the springtime, don't hope for a good crop of walnuts, when the moon is hazy, there will be double the quantity of walnuts).
- «**L'hiver donne le froid, le printemps la verdure, l'été le blé et l'automne le bon vin.**» (Winter brings the cold, Spring greenery, summer brings wheat and autumn brings good wine).

Similarly the month of March has its share of sayings and proverbs - also mainly forecasting the weather :

«**A mars poudreux, avril pluvieux.**» (powdery snow in March, rain in April) or «**Au commencement, à la fin, mars a du poison**» (from beginning to end, March has poison), «**Autant de brouillard en mars que de gelées en mai**» (as much fog in March as there will be frost in May).

But there's hope yet - «**En mars, quand le merle a sifflé, l'hiver s'en est allé**» (In March once the blackbird has sung, winter has gone away).

Vocabulary / Vocabulaire:

L'anémone (f).....	Anemone
Le bluets.....	Cornflower
Le crocus.....	Crocus
Le jacinthe.....	Hyacinth
L'iris (m).....	Iris
La tulipe.....	Tulip
La jonquille.....	Daffodil
La perce-neige.....	Snow-drop
La chéridoine	Celandine
Le coucou.....	Cowslip
La primevère jaune.....	Primrose
La primevère.....	Primula

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