

Darling buds

This spring, fragrance is a green-fingered affair, taking inspiration from the English garden. *Stylist* brings four fragrant flowers to life

PHOTOGRAPHY:
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NOSTALGIC BLOOM

Supra Floral, £135, Mugler

The initial jolt is fresh – and smells uncannily like you've just snipped a hyacinth's green stem with secateurs. But then it wears down to something that's less easy to identify: the smoky aroma of incense. Suddenly, this fresh floral turns more powdery, like sniffing a packet of Parma Violets. It's a delicious anomaly.

Grow your own: "Think of hyacinths as heavily scented bluebells," advises Fowler. "Plant the bulbs outside in autumn in a sunny spot, 8-10cm apart, to ensure they blossom in spring. They have a long vase life so you can pick them for indoors, too. Water them whenever the soil feels dry."





HERBAL INFUSION

**Lavender & Coriander, £44,
Jo Malone London
(available March)**

Lavender scents have been reimagined. There's a flash of something fresh and spicy here that you'd normally find in a cologne before earthy sage and sweet, balsamic lavender buds deepen the scent. It's outdoorsy but cool – like a pair of Hunter wellies stomping across wet grass.

Grow your own: "Lavender doesn't need much TLC," explains Gardener's World presenter Alys Fowler. "Just water it when the earth is dry. Planted in April or May, it'll thrive in a window box."

SWEET MEETS SPICY

**Vetiver Insolent, £95,
Miller Harris**

Showcasing a fragile flower with a vibrant purple hue, this unisex fragrance perfectly captures the powdery quality of iris. Here, it's mixed with cardamom to make it a touch warmer and unexpectedly sweeter. Let it bloom on your skin for a scent that's midway between the Chelsea Flower Show and a Moroccan souk.

Grow your own: "Iris don't like being crowded so allow space when planting," says Fowler. "Leave their roots partly exposed – they need to bake in the late summer sun to flower well the following May." 



**FULL-BODIED
FLORAL**

**Daisy Dream Blush Edition,
£54, Marc Jacobs**

Like a bed of pink roses and lily of the valley, its soft, pretty aroma is reminiscent of your first teen scent. After a few minutes, lush freesia adds a burst of cheery sweetness. It's the promise of languorous summer days in the garden sipping chardonnay, the silence broken only by the hum of bees.

Grow your own: "Traditionally, freesia bulbs are grown in greenhouses as they crave warmth," Fowler points out. "Choose 'prepared bulbs' that have already been heat treated and plant in April. Then dig them up and bring them indoors in winter." →

