

SPRING FLOWERING BULBS

(Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, etc.)

Requirements

Fall planting is required for all spring flowering bulbs. Plant when the soil temperatures have dropped to 60 degrees F. Bulbs should be in the ground by December 1.

Well-drained soil is a must to have bulbs that will thrive and bloom year after year.

Planting

Prepare the bed if a large group of bulbs will be planted. Work sphagnum peat moss or mushroom compost into the bed along with bone meal or a fertilizer high in phosphorous such as Dutch Bulb Food.

Place bulbs at the proper planting depth. The general rule of thumb on this is two to three times the height of the bulb. Be sure to place the bulb right side up so that the roots can go straight down and the tops go straight up. Some bulbs are very difficult to determine which end is up, so when in doubt, plant the bulb sideways. The roots will still go down and the tops up.

Fertilize with Dutch Bulb Food, Bone Meal or another fertilizer high in phosphorous if you have not already added it to the planting bed. (You can add this into individual holes if this is how you are planting.)

Water the newly planted bulbs right after planting.

Tips for the Best Bulb Garden

Plant in masses. A single row of tulips will not have nearly the same effect as a grouping of a dozen.

Bunch bulbs of the same color. A mass of red tulips next to a mass of white tulips will draw much more attention than the same number of bulbs planted with red and white mixed.

Bigger bulbs mean bigger blooms. Pick out premium sized bulbs for the biggest, showiest blooms. Fertilizing with a food high in phosphorous also helps make bigger bulbs, thus bigger blooms.

Use a bulb planter or auger for fast planting. The auger can fit on the end of an electric drill to make planting faster and easier.

Store bulbs in a ventilated bag in a cool, dry place if you will not be planting immediately. Keep away from any ripening fruit. Remember that bulbs are a living product that requires special care. Do not expose your bulbs to temperature extremes.

Select varieties with different flowering times to increase the period of bloom in your bulb garden. Also select different heights and pleasing color combinations to add to the interest and beauty of your garden.

Naturalize ground cover areas with small bulbs such as grape hyacinths or dwarf daffodils planted in among the groundcover.

Allow the foliage of the bulbs to die down after flowering. This will ensure proper time to store energy in the bulb for flowering next year.

Bulbs for different situations

Very early color

Crocus
Galanthus(Snowdrops)
Eranthis(Winter Aconite)
Chionodoxa(Glory-of-the-Snow)
Botanical Kaufmannia Tulips

Best for naturalizing (last from season to season)

Daffodils
Grape Hyacinths
Tulips:
Orange Emperor, Red Emperor, Red Riding Hood, Fusilier, Don Quichotte, Kees Nelis, Aladdin, Apeldoorn, Apeldoorn's Elite, Beauty of Apeldoorn and Golden Apeldoorn