

Bulb Care

Spring blooming bulbs brighten the spring landscape from March until May. First the early crocus, snowdrops, and early daffodils bloom, followed by later blooming daffodils, then tulips and hyacinths.



Bulbs in the Landscape:

Your setting should determine whether you do mass planting or naturalize. Daffodils and minor bulbs, such as muscari, snowdrops, eranthus, and scilla lend themselves to natural settings, while tulips show better in mass plantings.

In choosing your bulbs, keep in mind the blooming time. Naturalized plantings profit from bulbs which bloom at different times so that you have a longer blooming season.

Planting Instructions:

Bulbs can grow in most garden soil provided there is good drainage. Bulbs cannot tolerate wet feet, so be sure not to plant in a wet spot or in heavy clay. If the soil is clay or mostly clay, add organic matter and sand to the soil to a depth of about 18-20 inches.

When planting your bulbs, you can either dig a bed or dig a hole for each bulb or dump of bulbs. Be sure to dig a hole twice the depth of your planting.

A good rule of thumb for determining planting depth is: depth should be 3x the diameter of the bulb. The minor bulbs such as crocus and grape hyacinths are then planted about 4 inches deep. Hyacinths and daffodils should be planted 6 inches deep. Recommended planting depth for tulips is 6-8 inches. The pointed part of the bulb is the top, and the more rounded part is the bottom.

Bulb Forcing Guide for Indoor Growing

Buy the largest, top quality bulbs available. Plant bulbs close together in a soil mix, barely covering the bulb. After potting, provide a 12-16 week cooling period at 35-50° F to allow roots to grow. After top growth appears, move to a cool, well lighted area for 2-3 weeks. When buds form, move to a warm area, receiving plenty of light.

Planting Instructions:

Paper whites do not need a prolonged cool, dark period root growth, so they are easily forced inside.

Plant paper whites in pebbles with 20% of the bulb left above the stones. Place container in a sunny spot. Always keep enough water in the container to keep the roots moist. They will bloom in about 6 weeks.

Enjoy beautiful, fragrant blossoms all winter long by planting paper whites at 2 week intervals.

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