

PLANNING GUIDE FOR SPRING - FLOWERING BULBS

Here are some helpful hints on how to make the most of spring flowering bulbs in your garden.

CREATE SPLASHES OF COLOUR

A bed of hyacinths, tulips or daffodils is most effective if you plant at least seven, and preferably fifteen to twenty bulbs in one compact mass. They can be all one colour, although some gardeners enjoy mixing several colours. A polka-dot effect with at least twenty-five mixed tulips can be very striking. Pay attention to the heights of the bulbs you are planting. If you are planting a rectangular bed in front of a wall, a fence or the foundation of the house, be sure you plant the tallest in the rear and work your way down to the shortest flowering bulbs in the front of the bed.

BEWARE OF THE LONE INDIAN

Planting ten tulip or hyacinth bulbs in single file along a walk will give a skimpy result in the spring. Instead, plant ten bulbs in one clump at the end of the path where it will serve as a true eye-catcher.

ACCENT THE UNUSUAL

If you have a rocky area in some corner of your yard, put it to use. A rock garden offers an opportunity to put together an entirely unique flower garden. Use the small bulbs such as snowdrops, iris reticulata, botanical tulips and narcissi. Removing one flagstone or tile from a path and planting a clump of hyacinths, muscari, scilla or botanical narcissi can achieve another unusual effect. Decorate your trees and shrubs - Green trees and shrubs set off colorful bulb flowers. Daffodils, crocus, Spanish bluebells, erantis and galanthus are especially appropriate to these conditions.

MOISTURE

Bulbs do not like wet feet. They require a well-drained area if they are to flourish and yield good results. Bulbs planted in soil which is constantly wet will not develop a healthy set of roots and will have a tendency to rot. The ideal soil is one, which does not show any excess moisture five minutes after it has been well drenched.

BULBS FOR CUT FLOWERS

Flowers for the house - a good garden is the logical source for cut flowers to use in arrangements for the home. It might seem blasphemous to cut flowers from a well-designed garden however; the answer is to plant a cutting garden in a corner of the back yard. Extra bulbs can be planted in an area and if the flowers - but not the foliage - are cut, and the bed is fertilized periodically, the cutting bed can go on yielding flowers for several seasons.

Consider when laying out the garden that the foliage of the bulbs must be left undisturbed if repeated years of blooms are desired. The ripening of the foliage takes several weeks, benefiting by contrast with an attractive bed of pansies, forget-me-nots or violas. Make the most of combinations - wherever possible, combine perennials or annuals with your bulbs to hide ripening foliage and to maximize color in the garden. Some other plants to be considered are lilies (Asiatic and oriental types), hostas, daylilies, primroses and ground covers such as pachysandra, ivy and myrtle (periwinkle).

Create a handy chart to note the special details of your bulb purchases. All the information will be at your fingertips for quick reference at planting time. Use these heading for your chart.

Bulb Variety	Blooming Time	Height Colour	Planting Instructions
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Also use the other side of this sheet to sketch out a bulb garden plan. Don't forget to make the existing features of the landscape and the outline of the flower bed. Our sales staff can help you with colour selections and planting instructions or refer to our Plant Tips for Spring Flowering Bulbs Caresheet.