

## PLANTING TIPS FOR SPRING FLOWERING BULBS

### WHEN TO PLANT

Autumn is the time of Nature's final display of spectacular colour before the onslaught of winter. It is also the time to consider and plan for the joys of spring flowering bulbs. The ideal time to plant bulbs is late Sept. - early Oct. A novice with relatively little time can master the techniques of bulb planting however the quality of the bulbs is very important.

### WHERE TO PLANT

To start your display of spring flowering bulbs, make a rough sketch of your garden indicating the major features of your yard. Consider height, colour and variety and mark your choices on the map. Also consider the time honoured techniques of the Dutch who create a masterful display by planting at least a dozen bulbs of one variety together, in bank effect instead of in rows. And finally, consider the various flowering schedules of the bulbs which will permit you to achieve a succession of blooms in any bed. Ask for our flowering order care sheet.

If circumstances do not permit you to plant your bulbs as soon as they are purchased, store them in a cool, dry place between sheets of newspaper.

### HOW TO PLANT

The preparation of the planting bed is the most important factor. The trench system (used by the Dutch) required you to first loosen the soil and then dig out the area to the depth of 10-12".

Plant your bulbs according to the following guide. (Depth refers to the measurement from the soil surface to the base of the bulb).

Daffodils	8" deep	Chionodoxa	4" deep
Hyacinth	8" deep	Crocus	4" deep
Tulips	8" deep	Muscari	4" deep
Narcissi	8" deep	Galanthus	4" deep
Anemone	4" deep	Scilla	4" deep

To the soil you have removed from the trench, mix in 1 part each of manure, peat moss and sand or perlite to get a rich, well-draining soil. Because bulbs are food storage organs, you will improve the flower size and quality by working in bone meal or bulb food at the rate of 2 kg per 10 square metres. Place the bulbs pointed end up in the trench approximately 6" apart for large bulbs and 4" for smaller ones. After placing bulbs in the trench, half fill the trench with the soil you have amended and water thoroughly to settle the bulbs and eliminate air pockets. Add the remaining soil and water again. Cover the area with 3-4" of a mulch. If the beds do not require renovation, you may simply use a "bulb planter", which comes in two sizes and allows you to quickly remove a core of soil, drop in the bulb and firm the soil back into the hole. The sides of the bulb planter are marked for various depths.

And success! Your spring garden is bursting with a brilliant array of spring flowering bulbs. If you cut tulips or daffodils to display in your home take only one or two leaves, the rest will nourish the bulbs. Cut all faded flowers to prevent the formation of seeds and leave the stems which will also provide nourishment. Bulb foliage must be allowed to mature, (turn yellow or brown) before it is removed in the spring. Unsightly foliage may be tied up so that you can begin to interplant with spring annuals.