



Rockin E Gardening Handouts

Tips and Suggestions for 'Year-Round' Gardening

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Forcing Tulip Bulbs



- Fill pots to within 3" of the rim with potting soil. Plant as many bulbs as will fit inside the container.
- Place tulip bulbs with flat sides facing outward, leaving 1/2" to 1" space between the bulbs.
- Add more soil around bulbs, firm soil well around the roots. The bulbs should be completely covered with soil.
- Water pots thoroughly.
- Place pots in a cool, dark place (40-50 degrees) for about 8 to 12 weeks for rooting.
- Move the pots to a slightly warmer room until plants are about 4" tall and buds are visible (usually 3-4 weeks).
- Tulip growth may be sped up by placing them in room temperature. The growth may be slowed down by keeping them cool. Bulbs planted in mid-October may bloom in January, or they may be slowed to bloom near Valentine's Day.
- Keep containers cool, and water them often when plants are blooming, to prolong the blossom time.
- After flowers fade and foliage withers, bulbs may be stored for planting outside in the garden.



Forcing Narcissi and Daffodil Bulbs

- Follow the same steps as forcing tulips.
- Plant 5 to 6 bulbs in a 6" to 7" pot -- bulbs planted in mid-October may bloom in January or February.
- Allow 10 weeks for cold, root development. Then move pots to a cool, lighted room until leaves are about 3" tall and flower buds are visible (usually 3-4 weeks).
- When the flower buds appear move your pot of bulbs where you can enjoy the flowers.
- Small 'rock-garden' narcissi are especially pretty in containers, but all daffodils add color to your winter season.



Paperwhite Narcissus do not have the same requirements as other Narcissus. Please read our 'Forcing Paperwhites' Handout

Forcing Hyacinth Bulbs

In Soil-

- Even one single hyacinth in a small pot is effective.
- Plant with tips of bulbs even with the top edge of the pot -- soil level should be about 3/4" from the top.
- Allow 8 to 12 weeks for cool-dark (40-45 degree) root development, then about 4 weeks for bud growth in a lighted window. Too little of a cool-period produces very short-blooming plants.
- Water occasionally. Keep the soil moist but do not keep the soil soggy wet. The plants will need more water when the leaves begin to develop, and even more water when the flowers appear.
- Bulbs forced in soil will have deeper color than those forced in water.



In Water-

- Water should just barely touch the bulb's base.
- Charcoal in the container will help keep the water clear.
- Give bulbs a slow cool start, about 45-50 degrees for 8 to 10 weeks is great. Bulbs kept too warm will still bloom, but the blossom stems will be very short.
- Bring the container into bright light when roots are developed. Discard the bulb, or plant it outside in the garden, after the flowers fade.



Forcing Crocus Bulbs

- Plant in a shallow pot with bulbs' noses just at the soil surface.
- Allow 7 to 10 weeks for cool-dark (40-45 degree) root development, then about 4 weeks for bud growth in a lighted window.
- Crocus require 7 to 10 weeks of cool rooting time, but buds develop quickly when pots are brought into the warmth and the light.

