



# Rockin E Country Store

Tips and Suggestions for 'Year-Round' Gardening

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## Planting Flower Bulbs in The Fall

Flower bulbs are perhaps the easiest of all flowers to plant, grow, and have bloom. It is almost impossible to make a mistake planting bulbs because all the nutrients the flowers need to bloom are already stored inside the bulb before you buy them.

However, to keep your bulbs healthy year after year requires a little more time and care. The most important steps for planting and keeping bulbs healthy are:

1. Prepare the soil before planting
2. Choose healthy bulbs
3. Plan your design
4. Plant bulbs properly
5. Take care of your bulbs properly after they finish blooming.

The hardest part about planting bulbs is deciding which bulbs you like best, and knowing when to stop buying more bulbs.



### Soil Preparation

If you plan to leave your bulbs in the soil for several years and want them to bloom their best, be sure to take the time to prepare your soil before you plant them. Most bulbs will adapt and grow in any soils, except in heavy or wet soil conditions. Bulbs tend to rot if they are kept too wet.



Bulbs like good fertile soil, rich in organic matter. Spread one or two inches of **Harvest Supreme**, compost, or well-rotted manure (fresh manure may contain unwanted maggots, grubs, or other insects waiting to eat nice fresh bulbs). Mix the mulch into the soil at least six to eight inches deep.



Mix a high phosphate fertilizer such as **Bone Meal**, **Dutch Bulb Food**, **5-10-10 Vegetable Food**, or **6-10-4 Flower Food** into the soil while you prepare the soil. Use 6 lbs. of bone meal (or 2 lbs of 6-10-4 fertilizer) per 100 square feet of garden area. Many gardeners prefer to put one tablespoon of fertilizer directly under each bulb as they plant the bulbs; to make sure the fertilizer is right where it needs to be. Do not let the bulb make direct contact with the fertilizer; place the bulb at least an inch away from the fertilizer. Either method of fertilizing is acceptable for planting a bulb garden.



One disadvantage of using bone meal as a fertilizer is that it attracts dogs, squirrels, and other rodents to the area. The animal may just dig up the bulbs looking for a bone or the animal may eat the bulb and all.

### Choose healthy bulbs

If you have a choice between buying the less expensive, small tulip bulbs (10cm



to 11cm size) or the more expensive, large tulip bulbs (13cm size or larger), always choose the larger bulbs. Larger bulbs produce larger, stronger blossoms the first year, and they are more reliable.



After the first year, the size and number of blossoms depends on how well you fertilize, water and take care of your bulb gardens.

The smaller size bulbs are good to use in large, mass planting areas rather than planting them in the smaller home garden areas.

Good bulbs should be solid and fleshy; they should look and feel like an onion. Good bulbs should be free of major scars and deep blemishes. If a bulb is soft and spongy, or if the bulb is hard and shriveled, choose a different bulb.

You may need to dust your bulbs with **Bulb & Garden Dust** to prevent insect and disease problems. Moisten your bulbs slightly and put them in a paper sack. Add the Bulb Dust (use approximately one teaspoon for every two or three bulbs) and shake the sack until all the bulbs have a thin coat of dust. This dust helps to prevent root rot and it helps to kill many unwanted insects that may be in the soil.



Mice, deer, and gophers may enjoy eating many of your bulbs. Unfortunately **Bulb Dust** will not control these pests. If you have these problems talk to one of our salespeople for specific precautions you can try to protect your investment.

**Bulb Tip:** Deer love tulips. **Nothing is Deer Proof**, but they do not like daffodils, allium, scilla, galanthus, iris, eranthus, fritillaria, muscari or hyacinths. Deer do not like the smell of blood meal, many deodorant soaps, human hair, Milorganite fertilizer, lion manure, coyote urine, and many other household



products. If the deer do not like the odor in the garden, they may leave your plants alone.



## The Right Spot

Flower bulbs will grow in almost any location; sun, part sun, or shade. Some bulbs prefer the hot sunny areas while others prefer cool shady areas; but most bulbs will adapt to any location.

**Example:** A tulip will grow in either sun or shade. A tulip planted in a hot sunny area will bloom much earlier than the same tulip variety planted in a cooler shady area. A tulip blossom will last longer in a cool, moist, shady area than in a hot, dry, sunny area.

## Spacing

The distance you space your bulbs apart is a matter of personal preference but many gardeners prefer to plant in clusters rather than in straight lines. Straight line plantings are good for formal gardens and for borders. Space your bulbs evenly when you plant in straight lines to make them uniform. The closer you plant your bulbs the more flowers you will be able to enjoy in the spring.



If you plant bulbs in clusters you can have a large splash of color with space left between the clusters for planting "companion flowers". You can have a lot of color without having to plant as many bulbs in your garden.



Cluster plantings also prevent blossoms from getting "lost" in the garden. Try planting bulbs in clusters of five or seven to get the best impact of color. Space your bulbs four to six inches apart in each cluster. Space your clusters according to your personal preference.

**Bulb Tip:** If you would like to try an informal garden or a natural garden try gently tossing your bulbs into the garden area and then planting the bulbs where they fall. This method insures a more natural spacing and an unusual mix of colors and varieties. This type of design is interesting, but it may be a little too disorganized for some gardeners.

## Companion Planting

When you plant bulbs consider planting a few perennial flowers or pansies in your gardens with your bulbs. Many flowers, especially pansies, will grow and bloom in the winter so you don't have to look at a bare flower garden all winter - while you are waiting for your bulbs to start growing and blooming. Bulbs are also an excellent addition to flower pots and window boxes for early blooming flowers.



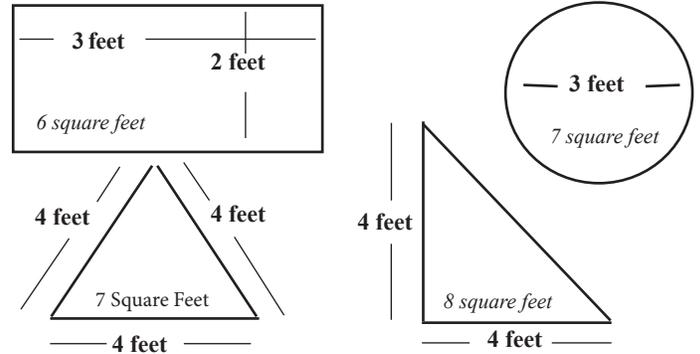
Remember, there are no hard and fast rules that you have to follow in designing your bulb gardens. The only limit to your design is your own personal preference and your own imagination. If you have a few questions, or if you don't

feel comfortable designing your own garden, bring in the measurements of your gardens and we can help design a garden for you.



## How Many Bulbs?

To know how many bulbs to plant in a garden you must first determine the square footage of the garden area you want to plant. Check the following conversion chart to see how many bulbs you need to purchase. Some bulbs need to be spaced two to four inches apart while others should be spaced eight to twelve inches apart. Choose an average spacing depending on what types of bulbs you want to plant.



Square Feet	4" Spacing	6" Spacing	10" Spacing	12" Spacing
5	45	20	8	5
10	90	40	15	10
50	450	200	75	50
<b>100</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Example:** 10' x 10' area = 100 square feet

Bulbs planted 4" apart.

30 rows of 30 bulbs = 900 bulbs

Bulbs planted 12" apart

10 rows of 10 bulbs = 100 bulbs

The hardest, and the most fun part of planting bulbs, is deciding what type and how many bulbs to plant in your garden.



## Planting Time

**Don't plant your bulbs too early.** Wait to plant bulbs until the soil starts to cool down (usually in October). Try to have them planted before the end of November.

If you buy your bulbs early, just store them until you are ready to plant. Keep your bulbs cool and dry. Store your bulbs in cardboard boxes or in paper bags, don't store your bulbs in plastic bags (they may start to sweat or rot before you plant them). Store your bulbs out of the direct sunlight. You may store your bulbs in a refrigerator (38 to 40 degrees) but do not put your bulbs into the freezer (below 32 degrees).



If you forgot to plant your bulbs in the fall, you should still plant them ASAP. Bulbs are not seeds, they will not store. They will dry out and die if not planted. Chances are that you may still get some good results even if you plant them in February or March. If the bulbs have dried out, rotted, or shriveled, throw them away, they will not grow.



## Planting Methods

You can dig individual holes for each bulb, or you can dig a trench and plant several bulbs at a time. Both methods have their advantages.



Digging individual holes lets you plant your bulbs around existing plants and it is the easiest way to plant bulbs that need to be spaced far apart. This method can be time consuming and hard on your hands, if you just use a trowel or shovel.



If you have a large number of bulbs to plant one at a time, use an electric drill and a bulb auger. Using a bulb auger you can plant 300 to 400 bulbs in one hour. You may end up planting more bulbs than you planned on because it is so fun and easy to dig the holes.



By digging a trench you can plant your bulbs exactly where you want them and you can change your mind and your design easily. You will be able to see exactly how your garden will look next spring; when the bulbs begin to grow. Trench planting works great for cluster gardens.

Be sure to plant your bulbs at the proper depth. Some bulbs need to be planted deeper than others. Crocus bulbs should be planted two or three inches deep while tulip and daffodil bulbs should be planted eight to twelve inches deep.



Bulbs planted deep will divide less frequently and the flowers will stay larger than bulbs planted shallow. A rule of thumb is to plant your bulbs three times deeper than the diameter of the bulb. The deeper you plant bulbs (within the bulb's suggested depth range) the better the plants will grow.

## Watering Bulbs

Water your bulb garden thoroughly soon after planting your bulbs. The first watering is very important to help the bulbs settle properly. Once the bulbs are planted and watered, they do not need much more water until spring because of the natural fall and winter moisture. If mother nature does not provide adequate moisture in the fall, you may need to water your bulbs occasionally until frost.



Do not water bulb gardens very much in the early spring, unless the weather is warm and the soil is very dry. The most critical time to keep bulbs moist is while they are blooming.

**Do not let your bulb gardens dry out while the bulbs are blooming or the blossoms may fade prematurely.** Do not sprinkle blooming flowers (try to irrigate rather than to sprinkle) or the blossoms may not last as long as they should.

Water bulb gardens regularly once the bulbs start to bloom until the leaves start to



turn yellow. Don't water bulb gardens very much after the leaves turn yellow and die. If you keep bulbs too wet during the summer many bulbs will start to rot. Hyacinth bulbs are especially prone to rot.

## Fertilizing Bulbs

Fertilize your established bulb gardens twice each year to help your bulbs grow, divide, and continue blooming their best year after year. Fertilize early each spring, just as the leaves emerge from the soil. Use 2 lbs. of **Bulb Fertilizer** per 100 square feet. Fertilize your bulb garden again after the bulbs finish blooming using the same 2 lb. of **Bulb Fertilizer** per 100 square feet.



## Don't Remove The Leaves!

Perhaps the most common mistake gardeners make trying to grow bulbs is removing the leaves too soon after blooming. The plants need 4 to 8 weeks of growth after they finish blooming to produce enough food for the bulb to produce a blossom next year. If you cut off the leaves too early, the bulb will not have stored enough food for next year. Consequently, your bulbs may produce very small flowers the next spring, or they may not bloom at all.



You can cut off the flower stems, near the ground, as soon as the flowers fade. Do not let the flower stems start to produce seed pods.

## Types Of Tulips

There are so many kinds of tulips, how do you know which ones to choose? They vary by color, blooming time, height, and flower form. The **Royal Horticultural Society** and the **Dutch Flowerbulb Industry** has classified tulips into 13 different categories. Some categories are based on genetic heritage and some are based on flower form. It is a flawed system and some tulips could fit into two or three different categories, but at least it standardizes terminology.



**1. Emperor Tulips (fosteriana tulips).** These are among the first tulips to bloom each spring. They are relatively short stemmed tulips. They sometimes bloom while snow is still on the ground or they may be covered by an inevitable late spring snow storm.



**2. Kaufmanniana Tulips. (rock garden tulips).** These tulips are very short stemmed varieties. They usually grow 4" to 6" tall and have full sized blossoms. They usually bloom when the crocus are blooming in the yard.

**3. Greigii Tulips.** These tulips are very short stemmed tulips similar to the Kaufmanniana. Most greigii tulips are mid season bloomers. They have mottled foliage and large flowers. These are also rock garden tulips.

**4. Single Early Tulips.** These tulips are medium height varieties that bloom after the Emperor Tulips but before the Darwin and Triumph varieties.

**5. Triumph Tulips.** These varieties have the broadest range of colors. They have many soft shades, bicolor varieties and vivid, bright colors. These tulips are medium height. They usually grow 14" to 18" tall. They are mid to late bloomers.



**6. Darwin Hybrid.** These tulips are the most popular and versatile varieties. They have strong, vibrant colors. The bulbs are large and hardy and will perennialize for several years without having to dig them, where the conditions are right. Darwin Hybrids are mid to late season bloomers. They grow quite tall, usually 20" to 24" tall.



**7. Single Late Tulips.** These tulips are tall, late blooming varieties. These varieties are valuable in making the transition from early bulb gardens to the summer flower gardens. They often overlap the planting time of summer annuals.

**8. Double Tulips (Double early and Double Late)** These tulips are double petaled types similar to their single blooming cousin. They grow tall and will bloom during the same time as the Single Early and Single Late varieties. They are often called *Peony Flowering Tulips* because the blossoms resemble peony blossoms.



**9. Lily-Flowering Tulips.** These tulips have strongly pointed flower tips. There are not many colors but the blossoms add variety to the garden. These tulips often bloom late.

**10. Parrot Tulips** These tulips are floral freaks that have been popular for years. The feathery petals add an informal look to the bulb garden. Parrot tulips along with many of the other specialty (unusual varieties) are not very long-lived in the garden. Several types of specialty tulips seem to fade away after several years in the garden, unless they are fertilized heavily each year, and divided frequently.



**11. Bouquet Tulips** These tulips produce several flowers on each stem. The blossoms are a little smaller than other varieties but it makes up by having more flowers per bulb.



**12. Species Tulips** These tulips are non-hybrid tulips. The flowers are often small and the stems are usually short; up to 9" tall. These tulips naturalize extremely well and are great in areas where they can be mass planted.



**13. Fringed Tulips.** These tulips are similar to parrot tulips in that they are floral freaks. They have a normal tulip shaped bud but the tips are very frilly and lacy. They are usually tall growing and are mid-season to



late-blooming. There are only two or three different colors available in the fringed varieties.

## Daffodil Facts

Daffodils are native to the Mediterranean area. They were grown by the Egyptians and Greeks. Daffodils were brought into the English gardens in the 1500s. By the 1600s about 50 cultivars of daffodils were commonly grown. By the early 1800s about 400 cultivars were available. Between the 1800s and the early 1900s another 1,000 cultivars were developed. From the early 1900s to the mid 1900s 6,000 more cultivars were hybridized. Today we have more than 24,000 different cultivars to choose from, if you can find them all. Many of these cultivars have only slight differences and the common daffodil grower would not notice any difference. Just like tulips, the **American Daffodil Society** and the **Royal Horticultural Society** have identified several different classifications of daffodils.



**1. Trumpet** - The center cup is as long or longer than the petals.

**2. Large Cup** - The center cup is about the same size or up to 1/3 larger than the petals.



**3. Small Cup** - The center cup is about the same size or smaller than the petals.

**4. Double** - The center cup has multiple layers and there are multiple rows of petals.

**5. Triandrus** - The flower cup hangs and the petals sweep back.

**6. Cyclamineus** - The petals sweep back.

**7. Jonquilla** - The center is a very small cup. They have very fragrant flowers.

**8. Tazetta, Poetaz** - The flowers have very small cups. They are bunch-flowering and fragrant.



**9. Poeticus** - The flowers have white petals, small "eyes", late blooming, and they are usually fragrant

**10: Bulbocodium** - Includes all wild daffodils and their wild hybrids.

**11: Split-corona** - Usually solitary flowers with a split corona, or cup.



## Bulb Questions

**1. Q. Why can't I plant 'fall bulbs' in the Spring?**

**A.** Fall Bulbs (Spring-flowering bulbs) must be planted in the fall because they need a long cool period to stimulate the blooming process. Most tulips (and many other bulb varieties) need at least 6 to 8 weeks of cold weather before they will bloom properly. Some bulbs (*Ranunculus*, *Anemone*) can be planted either in the fall or in the spring because they do not require the cold weather to bloom properly.



**2. Q. It's February and I forgot to plant my bulbs. Do I store them until next year?**

**A. NO!** If the bulbs are plump and firm plant them now; even if you have to plant them into pots and put them outside in a shed. Bulbs are not seeds, they will not store. They will dry out and die if not planted. Chances are that you may still get some good results even if you plant them in February or March. If the bulbs have dried out, rotted, or shriveled, throw them away, they will not grow.



**3. Q. What should I do if the weather warms early and then gets cold again?**

**A. Nothing.** Tulips and other bulbs are tough. They can usually take whatever mother nature dishes out. A short freeze won't do any lasting damage to young shoots and buds, though it may "burn" blossoms that have already opened. An unseasonably warm spell may cause bulbs to bloom earlier than anticipated, but in most cases no damage will occur, unless you damage the plants by covering them with mulch or you break the plant by covering it with a blanket.



**4. Q. How do I keep animals from digging up bulbs?**

**A.** Some animals are not attracted to the bulb but they love the smell of Bone Meal you used to fertilize the bulbs. Fido is sure you just buried a bone for him to find and eat! If you have animals (dogs, raccoons, squirrels, etc.) that may be a problem you may want to fertilize your bulbs with a commercial fertilizer instead of an organic fertilizer; to eliminate the odor factor. The only sure way of keeping unwanted animals from digging up your bulbs is to physically cover them with a screen or wire mesh. Some gardeners will leave the wire mesh in the soil and let the bulbs grow up through it. Other gardeners have found that removing the screen or wire mesh after the ground has settled or just before the bulbs begin to grow in the spring is just as effective as leaving the wire mesh permanently. Most animals won't dig up the bulbs after the ground hardens.

**5. Q. Why is there such a big price difference in Tulip Bulbs?**

**A.** Most of the world's crop of tulips (80%) are grown in Holland. In the auction houses of Holland the bulbs are gauged by their caliper (diameter) and quality (firmness, blemishes, skins still attached to the bulb). The bigger the bulb, the higher price it demands. The smaller bulbs are often sold considerably cheaper, depending on the bulb harvest. The Dutch bulb industry will not export any tulip bulbs that are smaller than 10cm in diameter so the quality of bulbs will always stay high.



The larger bulbs produce larger,

stronger flowers the first year. After the first year it depends on how well you, the gardener, fertilize and take care of the bulbs. The smaller bulbs are great in areas of mass planting. Individually, the blossoms are smaller but in a big area the blossoms are just as pretty. The smaller bulbs will grow bigger and produce larger flowers as they are fertilized. The smaller bulbs also naturalize quickly and remain as a stable part of your flower garden.

**6. Q. When should I plant my bulbs?**

**A.** While it is best to buy your bulbs when the best selection is available (September), it is not always good to plant them that soon. Wait until the ground temperature drops below 60 degrees F to plant bulbs (October). Be sure to plant your bulbs at least six weeks before the ground freezes hard, so the bulb has time to start rooting in the fall. The key is to plant in the fall to have blooms in the spring. Even if you forget and plant late, your bulbs will spring into action and try to start rooting. Bulbs are pre-programed to grow and will do their best no matter how late you plant them.

**7. Q. Why should I plant bulbs in Clusters?**

**A. Groups of flowers are more eye appealing than individual "soldiers marching single file".** To create a greater color impact in the garden, plant clusters of the same color bulbs together in blocks. Try planting your bulbs in a triangular pattern in the garden with the point of the triangle towards the front of the garden to make the garden appear more full. Plant bulbs 4" to 8" apart within the clusters and plant your clusters 2' to 4' apart in the garden.



**8. Q. Should I fertilize bulbs?**

**A.** If you are planting bulbs for only one year's bloom, **NO.** If you want the bulbs to perennialize and bloom for many years; **YES.** Fertilize your bulbs when you plant them with a slow release bulb food such as Bone Meal or Bulb & Bloom Fertilizer. Fertilize each spring, just as the shoots are appearing, with a balanced Vegetable & Flower Fertilizer such as **6-10-4** or **16-16-8**.

**9. Q. What should I do after the flowers fade in the spring?**

**A.** Wait until the blossoms fade and "Dead Head" the plants. (Remove the flower head so it will not produce seeds.) Do not remove the leaves until the bulb has had a chance to restore the food reserves within the bulb (six to eight weeks). If you remove the leaves too soon your bulbs will not bloom very well, if at all, next spring. Fight the urge to trim back or contain the leaves during the die-back phase. Don't bunch, tie or cut off the leaves during this period. Dealing with the fading foliage is one of those things that lovers of spring bulbs must learn to deal with.



**Bulb Management Tip:** Camouflage the dying leaves by planting other flowers around them; so the leaves are not as noticeable.



## 10 Q. What can I do to prevent deer, rodents, rabbits and other animals from eating my bulbs and flowers?

A. The best remedy for preventing animals from eating your bulbs is to plant bulbs they do not like to eat. While you can spray them with soap, pepper, or a chemical, this tends to wash off after the first rainfall and can be time consuming. A few bulbs that deer, rabbits, and other rodents do not like to eat are:

*Daffodils, Narcissus, Hyacinths, Allium (all types), Fritillaria, Fall Flowering Crocus, Iris (all types), Anemones (all types), Scilla (all types), Snowdrops, Eranthus, Chionodoxa, Muscari Grape Hyacinths.*

## Fun and Unusual Flower Bulbs

### Spring Blooming Crocus

A sure sign of spring are crocus poking their flowers right up through the snow. Crocus are low-growing, colorful, have cup-shaped flowers, and are a welcome sight in garden beds and in lawns.

Crocus adapt well and will multiply over time to cover large areas. Select varieties that mature at different times to extend the bloom season. Flower colors include blue, violet, purple, striped, yellow, and white.



### Fall Blooming Crocus

Another popular group of crocus is the fall-flowering bulbs; *Crocus speciosus*. It is a relative of the spring crocus. The most common fall crocus has purple-blue flowers during October. Like their spring-blooming cousins, fall crocus produce narrow, grass-like leaves in the spring; but no spring flowers.



### Saffron Crocus

*Crocus sativus*, commonly known as the Saffron crocus, is easy to grow. While most crocus flower in spring, the saffron crocus is a fall-flowering crocus. They'll sprout foliage in the spring but it's in the fall that they flower and produce their valuable bounty.



The saffron spice is actually the tiny orange-red stigmas that grow in the center of each small purple flower. Every flower is cut and the stigmas are carefully removed by hand and then dried. Because so little saffron is gathered from each flower, and because the process is so labor intensive, saffron can sell for \$75 an ounce. It takes between 60,000 and 100,000 saffron flowers to produce one pound of saffron. Most recipes ask for just a pinch to add an earthy flavor and yellow color. Some people enjoy saffron as an ingredient in cakes, too.

### Colchicum, Fall Blooming Crocus

In spite of its common names (fall crocus, autumn crocus and meadow saffron), colchicums are not crocus. Colchicums are the only flowering bulbs to bloom while they are dormant. Colchicum sends up waterlily-like blossoms of lavender to rosy lilac or white in the early fall, without any leaves. The bulbs produce leaves in the spring and summer; without any flowers.



They are the most spectacular of the fall-flowering bulbs. Colchicum corms are highly toxic; keep them away from children and pets.

Don't delay planting, or the corms will start to bloom on their own, right inside the sack in which you bought them. Unplanted corms are sometimes allowed to bloom on counter tops or on windowsills as a novelty. Planted in soil, each bulb produces five or six flowers, which last for weeks.

### Muscari, (Grape Hyacinth)

It is a charming spring-blooming bulb that offers a delightful range of blue and purple shades to the garden. Most varieties of Muscari grow best in full sun or part shade and moist, well-drained soil.

Like other spring-blooming bulbs, you plant Muscari in autumn. Unlike other bulbs, Muscari often sends up foliage in fall, but waits until spring to bloom. Take advantage of this and plant muscari with your other bulbs to remember where they're planted.

Be careful because they tolerate practically any soil, they spread rapidly, and they seem to live forever. They can easily out-grow your gardens and spread into nearby flowerbeds as well.



### Allium

Onions, shallots and garlic are members of the allium family that belong in the vegetable garden. There are also many ornamental alliums that deserve a hearty welcome in your perennial gardens.

Alliums are plants of exquisite beauty in both flower and leaf. These easy-to-grow bulbs come in a broad palette of colors, heights, bloom times and flower forms. Even crowded gardens can accommodate a few alliums because they don't take up much space. What's more, alliums are relatively resistant to deer, voles, chipmunks, and rabbits

**Purple Sensation allium:** the 2" to 4" diameter purple globes bloom in early June, right after the late tulips. Purple Sensation's sturdy stems rise 24" to 30" high, so the flowers appear to float above the foliage of newly emerging perennials.

**Globemaster and Gladiator allium:** The tallest and most noticeable alliums have huge, globe-shaped flower heads on 3' to 4' foot stems. Bloom time is early to mid-June.

**Schubert allium** Quite dramatic, though only 8" tall. Its foot-wide umbels look like an exploding pink fireworks display. Sure to elicit comments from garden visitors. Seed heads add interest for a month or more after blooms fade.

**Drumstick allium** Blooms in early July, a couple weeks after Purple Sensation. Not as erect and orderly as Purple Sensation, but in the right place, the two-toned, burgundy-green heads are fantastic. Great with ornamental grasses.



### Anemones

Anemones, also known as windflowers, are a diverse group, with various species blooming in spring and fall. Some have fibrous roots and are found in the perennials section of nurseries and garden centers. Others grow from tubers that are sold and planted in the fall along with spring-flowering bulbs like tulips and daffodils.

Spring blooming anemones are low growing plants that are good choices for woodland and rock gardens. While most of them grow from creeping rhizomes, Grecian windflower (*Anemone blanda*) and poppy anemone (*A. coronaria*) grow from tubers.



Plant these early bloomers in the fall.

Anemone bulbs often benefit from a pre-planting soak to get them ready to grow. Before you head out to the garden to plant, soak your anemone bulbs for 2-4 hours in a small bowl of water. This will encourage them to sprout faster and get growing so they develop a good network of roots in the garden.



### Scilla

Scilla is the sweetheart of the woodland and rock garden. It grows well in partial shade and in less than perfect soil. It is even deer resistant! The nodding, somewhat star-shaped flowers, are commonly blue in color, but also come in white and pink. Look for this petite perennial to flower in spring, though some varieties flower in the autumn.



Scilla is often referred to as an herb, perhaps because the liquid can be extracted and used as an expectorant in cough medicines. It can be planted in the front or border of a flower bed with other spring flowering bulbs, or naturalized in or near a wooded area.

Not to scare you, but scilla is a poisonous plant, which basically means you shouldn't eat it!

### Galanthus - Snowdrops

These tough-as-nails little plants sprout even through snow - hence their name. They blossom while the calendar (and often the weatherman) say it's still winter. These tiny gems are also deer resistant, so they're ideal for planting in areas that back to "forever wild" plots.



Snowdrops take a year to become established so don't be disappointed if they only flower lightly the first spring. They'll produce more blooms and begin to develop into thick patches by year two.

### Leucojum, Spring Snowflake

This robust variety has much larger plants than snowdrops. It looks like a giant Lily-of-the-Valley. It blooms after snowdrops in mid-spring (April). It usually goes dormant by summer. It has dark grassy-green leaves that grow up to 12" long and 1" wide. It forms an upright, vase-shaped clump of foliage. Typically 2-5 white, nodding, bell-shaped flowers appear at the top of 12-15" tall flower stems.



### Eranthus, Winter Aconite

Winter aconite is a late winter bloomer (before crocus) that features cup-shaped, upward-facing, bright yellow, butter-cup like flowers on stalks to 3-4" tall. Each flower is subtended by a collar of leaf-like bracts. A true harbinger of spring, these rugged plants often send their shoots up through snow.



### Fritillaria

Fritillaria are just as easy to grow as tulips and daffodils, but they are still relatively unknown. There's a lot to love about Fritillaria, including the fact that they repel rodents and are distasteful to deer. This group of bulbs tends to show up in formal and botanical gardens more often than in home gardens.



From the unusual, highly variable patterns of checkered

lilies to the unusual fragrance of yellow fritillary appearance of the crown imperials, these are fun flowers. Fritillaria bulbs produce large flowers that add variety and interest to your garden. showy yellow, red or orange bell-shaped flowers.



### Puschkinia

Puschkinia is related to Scilla and Chionodoxa. They are all members of the lily family and closely resemble one another. They have little star-shaped flowers and are good for naturalized drifts, border plantings, rock gardens and forced pots. Bloom time: April. Height: 5". Plant 4" deep and 4" apart. Each bulb sends up short stalks that bear as many as six, lushly petaled white blossoms with bluish veining.



### Dutch Iris

Dutch Iris are considered to be one of the most beautifully shaped bulbous flowers available. Ideally, they are used to fill the gap between Spring and Summer plants. They are a long-lasting, excellent cut flower or border item. Dutch iris is a bulbous iris whose hybrids were developed by Dutch growers.



Dutch hybrids are slender plants that typically grow to 15-24" (sometimes to 30") tall, and feature a May-June bloom of flowers (3-4" wide). The blossom are primarily in colors ranging from soft-blue, to violet-blue, to yellow, to white. Flowers often have a yellow or golden blotch on the falls.

Dutch irises are popular with florists, and home gardeners, because they are dependably pretty and easy to use. Long, strong, straight stems couple with blooms that are an ideal size for medium bouquets. The clear, beautiful colors of iris fit into any arrangement. They are often grown as annuals when used as cut flowers. Few pleasures compare to having an abundant supply of fresh flowers for cutting and using around your home.

### Dwarf Iris

Iris reticulata are superb early flowering bulbs for spring color. They are compact, so they are ideal for containers, with large, long flowers. You can also plant them direct into the ground to give splashes of brightness and color. Plant them deep to get the best results and ensure a succession of flowers for subsequent years. The plants are only 4" to 6" tall and the miniature, velvety iris flowers bloom very early in the spring. The leaves are curious, like green horny-pointed antennae. The bulbs quickly produce offsets that multiply into generous drifts of color.

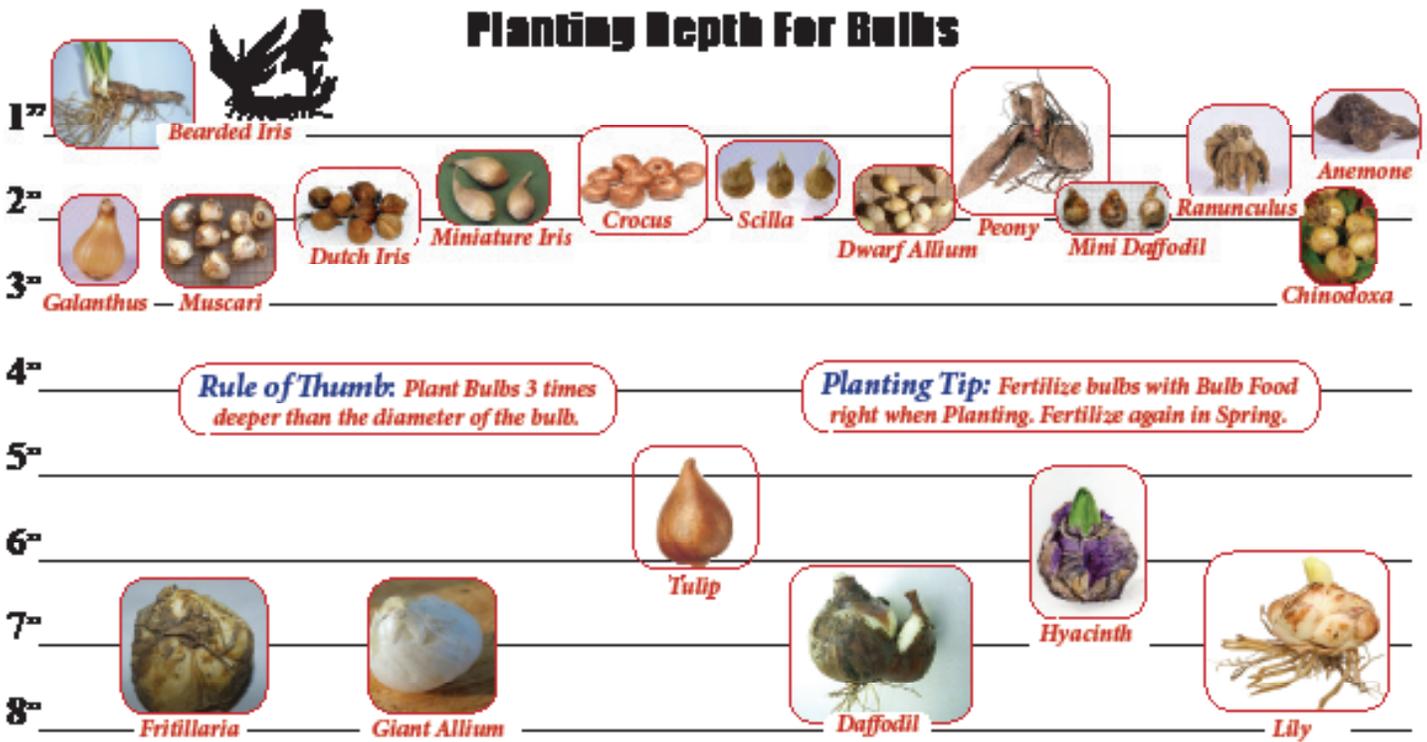


# Planting Guide

Late-March to Early April	Early to Mid-April	Late-April to Early-May	
			45"
			40"
			38"
			34"
			30"
			26"
			22"
			18"
			14"
			10"
			6"
			2"
			Mulch
			4"
			8"
			Planting Depth
Snow drops Crocus Muscarl	Daffodil Most Tulips Fritillaria	Late Tulip Dutch iris Allium Globe Master	
Early Spring Blooming	Mid Spring Blooming	Late spring Blooming	

Photo Credit: StufbergendenBulbCompany-com.jpg

## Planting Depth For Bulbs



Our experience has shown that gardeners find the look of a single line of bulbs disappointing when they bloom. We recommend planting closely, in clusters or rows, at least four or five bulbs wide. This will give you a beautiful array of color, and a full vibrant garden show next spring, when the rest of your garden is just waking up.