

# Planting Bulbs

At the end of the winter, before the earliest perennials make an appearance, spring bulbs are often the first things to flower when the ground is frozen and sky is grey, chasing away the winter blues...

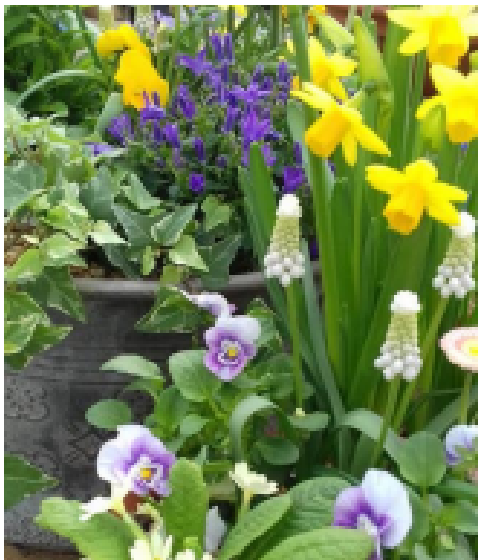
Spring bulbs flower in the sun and shade because they flower so early, they can get the sunlight and energy before the trees and the shrubs create a leafy canopy and shade the ground. They also can cope with a wide range of soil types from clay to sand. They require some moisture in the spring but the rest of the year, need very little water and no attention as inside every bulb is a concentrate of energy making them super easy to grow and allows you to change the appearance of your pots and borders as often as you like!

Many bulbs are loved by bees and other pollinators making them important early nectar source as they emerge out of hibernation. Weather dependent, bulbs can start flowering as early as December through to early summer.

## In your garden...

Choose a spot (sun or shade) that has well drained soil. Bulbs do not like to be wet as they will rot! Some exceptions to this rule are Fritillaries, Camas and Galanthus, as they naturally cope with seasonal flooding and so can be grown by ponds and rivers. Plant the bulbs the depth recommended on the packet. For example, plant tulips as deep as you can (minimum 20cm) as this will prevent them getting eaten and most (not all) successfully return next year.

We recommend using a bulb planter, horticulture grit and bulb fibre added to your soil. This can help with the soil's drainage.



**PLACES TO PLANT BULBS**  
Borders, lawns, beside ponds,  
pots/planters, roadsides/paths, under  
trees/shrubs

## Bulbs for Pots



- Iris Reticulata
- Anemone Blanda, Balkan Anemone
- Eranthis hyemalis, Winter Aconite
- Galanthus, Native Snowdrops
- Narcissus, Daffodils eg. 'February Gold', 'Jetfire', 'Hawera', 'Tete a Tete', 'Minnow'
- Anemone Coronaria, Poppy anemone
- Scilla
- Scillia Chionodoxa, Glory of the Snow
- Tulips, eg. Tulipa 'little beauty', 'Seadov', 'Salmon Gem'
- Muscari, Grape Hyacinth
- Fritillaria Meleagaris, Guinea Hen Flowers
- Fritillaria Michailovskyi, Michael's Flower
- Cyclamen

## Planting in pots...

If you have limited space, window sills/boxes, small pots, table tops or steps, you can create spring displays using dwarf varieties of bulbs. Mix and match with other winter or spring flowering plants like cyclamen, primulas, heather & ferns.



# Planting Bulbs

## Shade Loving Bulbs

Galanthus, Native Snowdrops  
Crocus  
Scillas  
Scilla Chionodoxa, Glory of the Snow  
Narcissus, Daffodils, eg. Minnow, Golden Echo  
Muscari, Grape Hyacinth  
Hyacinthoides, Native Bluebells  
Leucojum, Summer Snowflake  
Arums, e.g. Lord of the Ladies, Calla Lilies  
Fritillaria Meleagris, Guinea Hen Flowers  
Fritillaria Michailovskyi, Michael's Flower  
Anemone Blanda, Balkan Anemone  
Anemone Nemorosa, Wood Anemone  
Cyclamen Hederifolium, Ivy-Leaved Cyclamen  
Cyclamen Coum, Eastern Sowbread  
Convallaria Majalis, Lily of the Valley  
Camassia, Camas/Wild Hyacinth  
Eranthis hyemalis, Winter Aconite

## Bulbs for shady areas...

When your spring bulbs have finished flowering and your shady perennials are emerging and covering the ground, their foliage will hide the dying foliage of your bulbs. Leave your bulbs to die back and disappear and they will burst into life next year.

The majority of these bulbs are perfect for creating a 'woodland feel' planting scheme due to them naturalising over the years, creating a woodland carpet.



## Bulbs for sunny spots...

Again, these will fill your garden and pots with colour long before your perennials start to wake up. Bulbs like tulips, allium, narcissi, and fritillaries bring strong colour and structure to your pots and borders. Also, some are great as cut flowers and pretty seed heads long after the flower has faded.



## Sunny Spot Bulbs

All Alliums, eg. Allium moly 'Jeannine', Allium 'Purple Rain'  
All Tulips, eg. 'Ballerina', 'Angelique', 'Queen of the Night'  
Narcissi, Daffodils, eg. 'Tete a Tete', Sailboat', 'Falconet'  
Muscari, eg. 'Pink Sunrise', 'Armeniacum'  
Crocus eg. Chrysanthus 'Jeannine d'Arc'  
Cyclamen, eg. Cyclamen persicum, Cyclamen coum  
Scillas, eg. Scilla siberica  
Hyacinthoides, Native Bluebells  
Fritillaria Maxima  
Fritillaria Rubra  
Chionodoxa persica, Ivory Bells  
Iris Reticulata

