



FALL BULB PLANTING GUIDE

Spring flowering bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, can create a beautiful show of colour in the spring. Plant one variety in one colour or mix several types for a stunning, multi-coloured display. Bulbs are easy to plant, low maintenance and will flower year after year.

When to Plant

Bulbs that flower in the spring must be planted in the fall, in September or October. When leaves on trees are showing their fall colour, this is the best time to plant fall bulbs.

Choosing Bulbs

Each type of flowering bulb has a unique shape and size. Generally, the size of the flower is in direct proportion to the size of the bulb so, the larger the bulb, the larger the flower and the more vigorous the plant. Always choose bulbs that are plump, firm and healthy with no soft spots or signs of damage.

How to Plant

If planting bulbs in small groups, always plant an uneven number of 3,5,7 or more. Avoid planting in straight lines. Plant a large mass of bulbs using the same colour and variety or use different colours and heights for a dramatic effect.

1. To plant a full bed or large border of bulbs, dig out the area to the proper planting depth.
2. Add a good organic soil (soil, peat and manure blend) and mix it in the planting bed. Good drainage is critical.
3. Smooth out the bottom of the bed and set the bulbs in, pointy side up at the proper depth. **General rule:** Plant bulbs at a depth that is 3 times the bulb's height & space at 2-3 times their width.

4. Add Bulb Food or Blood & Bone Meal to the soil when planting. Apply fertilizer every spring during active growth.
5. Cover the bulbs with the remaining soil and water thoroughly. Mulch may be added to keep the soil moist.
6. If you are planting single bulbs and do not want to dig out a bed, a special bulb planter can be used. Remove a plug of soil with this tool, add the fertilizer to the hole, drop in the bulb, replace the plug of soil, and water thoroughly.

After Flowering

When flowering is done, cut off the seed head to prevent seed production. Allow the leaves to die back naturally. This is important as the dying leaves return nutrients back into the bulbs for next year's growth. Cut the leaves off at soil level when they are dry and yellow. The bulbs will stay dormant in the soil until next spring.