



Bulb Tips and Tricks

You will be planting out most of your Spring Flowering Bulbs later this month, so here are a few 'Tips and Tricks' to create a colorful show in a few months time.

- Tulip and Hyacinth bulbs should be in the crisper of the 'fridge. Keep them in a paper packet and ensure that they stay dry. Keeping it chilled makes them think that it's a cold northern hemisphere winter!
- Don't plant these until later on in May – the longer they are left, the better they will be! O.K. – Now on to all the other bulbs
- If planting in a pot, use a premium quality Bulb Mix. This is a fairly coarse mix and ideally suited to growing all bulbs. Here's a tip: even when planting in the ground, put a little Bulb Mix in the soil around each bulb
- Plant the bulbs about the same depth below the soil surface equal to the length of the bulb
- Never plant bulbs in a straight line unless you are using many and creating a pattern
- Random clumps of bulbs look much better and they will look more striking if grouped closely together
- Ranunculus corms are planted with the claws facing down and Anemone corms have the point facing down. All other bulbs have the point facing upwards. It can be a bit tricky with Scilla (Bluebells) but look for the slightly open end – that goes up!
- A Bulb fertilizer such as Trenton Cottage Bulb Food is excellent to mix through the soil at planting time
- It is probably better to not use water storage crystals when planting bulbs as they could rot
- Once planted, mark the area so that you don't dig there and scatter some Garden Gold fertilizer on the surface. Water gently and until the bulbs are up and don't over water
- As the growth progresses use a liquid flower enhancing fertilizer
- Once the bulbs have finished flowering, continue to liquid feed. This is important as the embryo for next seasons flower will be formed at this time
- Don't cut off the dying foliage until it is completely brown
- Bulbs such as Freesia, Lachenalia, Sparaxis, Babiana, Ixia, Scilla, and any others that naturalize happily can be left in the ground
- It is probably best to lift Daffodils in warmer areas and store in a cool dry place. Ranunculus and Anemones seldom see another season, but they are very well worthwhile as they give such a dramatic flower show in spring.

Happy and Successful Bulb Growing

Life's a garden – dig it!