



Selecting And Planting Bulbs

Selecting Bulbs

When selecting bulbs, size is an important consideration. Larger bulbs are older and generally will produce larger and more pleasing blooms. Avoid soft bulbs and those that seem bruised. Remember that the bulbs outer paper-like skin does not need to be intact for the bulb to grow.

Blooming Times

Generally, bulbs fall into two groups; those planted in the fall for spring blooms and those planted in the spring for summer blooms. The spring flowering bulbs are hardy and actually require the cooling of the winter months to bloom. The summer flowering bulbs are not as hardy and many cannot withstand winter in the ground. These bulbs should be dug up in the fall and stored through the winter to be replanted the following spring.

Examples:

Spring Bloomers

Plant in Fall
Tulips
Daffodils (Narcissus)
Crocus
Iris

Summer Bloomers

Plant in Spring
Most Lilies
Gladiolus
Cannas
Caladiums

Gardening Interests

C A R E S H E E T

Planting

Bulbs will give the most pleasing results when planted in clumps or mass displays. Some important factors to consider are height and bloom time. Keep shorter varieties to the front and taller ones in the rear of the display. Also, consider that some bulbs flower early, some in mid season, and some in late season. Proper planning can yield multiple displays of spectacular color.

To plant bulbs use a planter (a device that removes a "plug" of earth allowing you to plant the bulb at the proper depth). For larger areas, remove the entire soil bed to the specified depth, set the bulbs and backfill. Proper planting depth will insure that your bulbs bloom.

Bulb Planting Depth

Depth	Type of Bulb
3 inches	Snowdrops, Grape Hyacinths
3.5 inches	Scillas, Crocus
4 inches	Jonquils, Dutch Iris
5 inches	Gladioli
5.5 inches	Hyacinths
6 inches	Daffodils
6.5 inches	Narcissus
7 inches	Tulips, Lilies

Bulbs may be planted 1" to 2" deeper in severe cold climate or in light sandy soil.

Approximate Bulb Depths:

2 to 3 times diameter of large bulbs
3 to 4 times diameter of small bulbs

Approximate Distance Apart:

Large bulbs - 1.5 to 2 times planting depth
Small bulbs - 2 to 3 times planting depth

Feeding

Bulbs should be fed at time of planting with Bulb-tone by Espoma. Bulb-tone is a complex blend of natural ingredients that provides all major, minor, and trace nutrients your bulbs require for maximum performance. For individual bulbs add 1 teaspoon per hole; for larger plantings, apply Bulb-tone at the rate of 5 lbs. per 100 square feet.

An additional application of Bulb-tone should be made immediately following the bloom.

Troubleshooting: Bulbs are virtually foolproof. As long as you follow the correct planting schedule they are quite dependable. If you do encounter problems, consult the experts at your local garden center.



For more information about our products and services please contact our customer support department at:

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