

Fall Bulbs = Spring Flowers

A Garden Guide

Planting: Bulbs can be planted in various ways. They can be planted in individual holes or in entire beds. They may be mixed with other types or plants, or all of one variety. A natural effect may be had by “scattering” the bulbs and planting them where they fall. Some bulbs take well to container growing. Full sun (6-8 hours) is best but early varieties can be planted beneath deciduous trees.



Soil: Good drainage is essential! If your soil is mostly clay, mix generous amounts of soil conditioner to improve drainage, and compost to improve soil organic matter.

Choose Well: The size and/or number of flowers are directly related to the size of the bulb. Choose firm, large bulbs. Store in a cool, dry place (50-65F).

Planting Time & Other Planting Tips: Wait until soil temperature is below 60F (usually late October here in WNC). Plant bulbs at the depth of 3 times the height of the bulb. Make sure the soil beneath the bulb is loose and well-draining.

Fertilizer, Water, Mulch, Etc.: When planting, mix a small amount of Espoma Bulb-tone® or Rock Phosphate into the hole. Fill hole and water well. Mark the spot and use 2-3” of mulch.

Pests: Voles love tulip bulbs. Lining the hole with products like Perma-till or Volebloc can help deter them. Daffodils planted among the tulips can also help. Squirrels dig into newly disturbed soil to store nuts and can dislodge bulbs. Covering with netting may help. Hungry deer? Look for packages of deer resistant bulbs.

Afterbloom Care: Leave foliage and remove spent blooms to provide energy for the following season. Companion planting of early-to-mid season annuals and/or perennials can help hide yellowing foliage. Taking pictures of and marking your bulb plantings helps tremendously for future gardening projects.

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