

EARLY POTS OF SPRING SURPRISES

Planted in pots and window boxes, flower bulbs will bring bright Spring colours almost into your home. There are plenty to choose from that are ideal. Plant double and single early dwarf tulips, Triumph, greigii & kaufmanniana types are also superb.

Mix them with colourful hyacinths, Narcissi, grape hyacinths, Anemone blanda, Chionodoxa, botanical Iris varieties, Puschkinia, Scilla, snowdrops and Crocuses. Always use a free-draining compost - and place large stones or coarse gravel at the bottom of each pot. In pots bulbs can be planted so that they almost touch - otherwise plant your bulbs just as you would in the garden soil.



HELPFUL TIPS

ALWAYS GET THE BEST RESULTS:



- Plant flower bulbs in pots - for a change!



- Mix flower bulbs of differing heights to get a stunning effect



- Flower bulbs produce dazzling combinations of colour - starting from early Spring



- Mixtures of bulbs with overlapping flowering times ensure continuous, long lasting colours



- Brighten up shady corners with pots-full of glorious bulbs

- Plant bulbs amongst shrubs or perennials and guarantee an even wider range of colourful effects

The Beauty



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The Bulb

Flower bulbs. Plant them now



WHEN SHOULD I PLANT FLOWER BULBS?

Spring flowering bulbs are planted during the Autumn between September and December. They can even be planted when Winter frosts appear - as long as it's easy to cultivate the soil or compost.

HOW SHOULD I PLANT FLOWER BULBS?

Flower bulbs can be planted in many different ways. However the most popular method is to dig a shallow hole with a trowel. To create a natural effect gently scatter your bulbs over the planting area, and place them in a hole more or less where they land.

HOW DEEP SHOULD I PLANT THEM?

The depth of the planting hole will depend upon the size of the bulb. However, as a general rule plant bulbs, twice as deep as the height of the bulb. The chart shows the preferred depth for a range of different bulbs.

HOW FAR APART SHOULD BULBS BE PLANTED?

Larger bulbs can be planted as close as 12 cm apart, whereas for smaller bulbs can be planted a little closer, 10 cm. To create a bold mass of colour it's possible to plant even closer - with the bulbs almost touching.



WHAT TYPE OF SOIL DO BULBS PREFER?

Always cultivate garden soil before planting anything. This makes planting so much easier and helps the bulbs new roots to get off to a good start. Flower bulbs thrive in well drained soil. Bulbs left to grow and naturalise prefer some organic material or compost mixed with the planting soil. Bulbs can also be planted in pots filled with a free-draining soil or compost - without the need to add plant foods during their first growing season.



WHAT AFTERCARE WILL BULBS NEED?

When your bulbs have been planted, water the soil well. If you live in an area that's likely to suffer from severe frosts, give them a little extra frost protection by spreading straw, dead leaves or compost over the soil above them.



100 DAYS OF COLOUR

By combining different types of bulbs together, it's possible to create 100 days of continuous colour in a container or in the garden. One of the earliest to appear during January are the gently nodding snowdrops and winter aconites - with glorious Alliums the latest to bloom in June. Further you can combine the height and planting depth of the flower bulbs.

YEARS OF GLORIOUS PLEASURE....

Because flower bulbs create reserves of food, the flowering is not over once the first years blooms have faded. Many will re-appear again next Spring, and especially if you add a little plant food to the soil when the

flowers have begun to fade. To get the best effect combine different types of bulbs in the same planting mixture. This will create a stunning mixture of colours, and help ensure that flowers will re-appear year after year.

FLOWERING IDEAS!

Before you start planting make a simple plan. Consider each bulb flowering period, their different heights and the shape of their flowers.

Starting in mid-Winter when Snowdrops first appear - it's possible to create colour with Autumn planted bulbs right through until Dutch Iris appear in mid-Summer. Then your Spring planted Summer bulbs will take over, providing dazzling colours until late Autumn. The most stunning effects are achieved from bulbs planted in bold groups. For example 10-15 tulips, 5-10 Narcissi - and 20-25 crocuses will ensure stunning colours almost continually - and really make an impact.

Plant low growing bulbs such as Anemone blanda to the front of a border - with taller tulips towards the back. In pots attractive mixtures of low growing tulips, dwarf daffodils and grape hyacinths will bring colour to even the shadier corners of your garden. Even more stunning ideas can be found in this leaflet.



POTS OF COLOURFUL COMBINATIONS

Flower bulbs are great mixers!. They can be planted with other bulbs in 2 or 3 layers - or in combination with shrubs. In areas suffering from hard frosts and freezing winds group patio pots together against a sheltered wall - or cover them e.g. with bubble wrap. But you can also move them to an unheated shed where temperatures not rise above 15°C. Keep them watered during dry spells, remove fading flowers - is all the aftercare required.

