

Fall Bulbs



Some of the most striking and unusual flowers come from bulbs. Not only that, but bulbs are among the easiest and most reliable flowers you can plant. Just follow these few simple steps, then sit back and wait for them to pop up in the spring.

What Are Bulbs?

“Bulb” is a generic term used by gardeners to describe bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes and tuberous roots. These are different plant structures that all serve the same purpose, storing food for the plant during dormant periods.

Planting Bulbs

September and October are the best months to plant bulbs. The soil is still workable and there is plenty of time for bulbs to become rooted before the frost. But if you are a bit of procrastinator, you can still have success into December and January. The most important thing to pay attention to while planting bulbs is the planting depth.

As a rule of thumb small bulbs, like crocuses, are planted about 3” to 4” deep and larger bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, are planted at about 6” to 8”. To the right is a list of the planting depths of popular fall and winter bulbs. Most bulbs’ planting depths are also listed on their boxes or tags.

Bulb Care

Bulbs, like most plants, do best in well-draining soil. Prepare your soil with a soil amendment like B.O.S.S., peat moss or compost. Then, plant them with about a teaspoon of slow-release, organic fertilizer. One of the best bulb fertilizers is **Espoma’s Bulb Tone**. **Bulb Tone** contains a complex blend of natural ingredients and a high phosphorus analysis (3-5-3) that provides all the nutrients your bulbs need during dormancy. Fertilize the bulbs again when they begin to sprout in the spring. Bulbs need water while they are actively growing, so be sure to continue to water them throughout the winter and until after they finish flowering in the spring. Water deeply enough for the water to reach the root zone, just beneath the bulb.



1”	Anemone
2”	Freesia Ranunculus
3”	Snowdrops Grape Hyacinth Crocus
4”	Gladioli Dutch Iris Watsonia
5”	Hyacinth Calla
6”	Tulip Daffodil

