

BULB PLANTING TIPS

Where to Plant. Spring bulbs look great just about anywhere! Most bulbs need sunshine at least several hours a day, although some do well in shaded light around deciduous trees. Good soil drainage is very important. Choose a site where water does not stand and the soil is not soggy. Well drained soil on a gentle slope is ideal.

When to Plant. Plant the bulbs when the soil cools to below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. In warm climates, store the bulbs in an open container in the vegetable compartment of your refrigerator for 6-8 weeks. Don't place the bulbs next to fruit like tomatoes, apples, or pears. This cold period simulates the chilling they would normally receive in the ground. Plant the bulbs on a cool day in late November or December.

How to Plant. First loosen the soil by digging to at least several inches below the depth of the bulbs. Mix in some lime and organic matter to improve the soil as needed. Plant the bulbs with the pointed end up- large bulbs about 8" deep, small bulbs about 5" deep. Deeper planting keeps the bulbs from freezing in extremely cold climates, and keeps them cooler in warmer climates. Space the bulbs far enough apart that the flowers will not be crowded, but close enough that the planting will look full. You can also use a bulb planter or trowel to dig individual holes for each bulb. For even flowering be sure tall the bulbs of the same kind are at the same depth.

Care. Remove dead flowers so the bulbs won't spend their energy making seeds. Don't cut the leaves off until they are completely brown. Leave the bulbs in the ground through the summer.

