

FALL BULBS

HUMBER NURSERIES 'GREEN THUMB GUIDE'



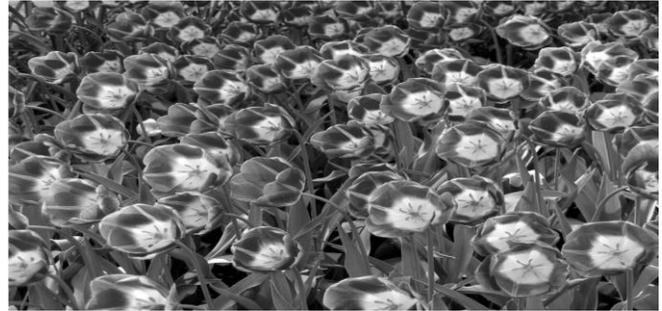
WINTER CHILLING

Hardy fall bulbs like Daffodil, Tulip, Hyacinth, Crocus and Snowdrop are spring flowering and must be planted in the fall.

They are mostly native to mountainous regions of Europe and the Near East, such as Spain, Turkey and Afghanistan. They actually need the dormant rest period of a long cold winter. The melting snow and ice in early spring provides needed moisture as they start to grow and flower. Spring flowering bulbs are available at the garden centre in September and October. Shop early for the best selection.

AFTER FLOWERING

Only remove the flower stems after flowering. The foliage must be allowed to remain to soak up sunshine and replenish energy in the underground bulb. In a few weeks the foliage withers and will die down. This is a defense against the hot summer sun in their original habitat. Don't interfere with this stage of unsightly leaves. You can plant companions such as Daylilies, Bleeding Hearts or Grasses to hide the dying leaves.



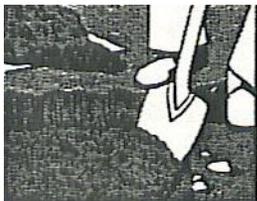
FORCING BULBS TO FLOWER INDOORS

To have Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths and Crocus blooming indoors in mid-winter, you must start early. Use clay or plastic pots and a fairly heavy soil, such as potting soil. Water thoroughly and keep them at 10°C for 3 or 4 weeks until roots form. Then store them at 2 – 7°C for a further 8 weeks (later flowering types such as Tulips should be stored for 12 weeks).

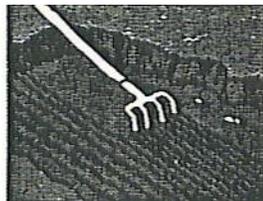
During the chilling period, the bulb should receive no light, the soil needs to be lightly moist and may need to be covered. The cool temperatures needed might be found in an unheated garage or cool basement. They will do very well in a refrigerator if you have the room. After this chilling period, they should be brought into a warm room in good indirect light, where temperatures don't exceed 15°C. Hyacinths are the exception and can take it warmer, up to 22°C. Water the plants well and keep fairly moist through bloom time.

Forced bulbs are not expected to bloom again. If planted in your yard, they may regain blooming size after a few years.

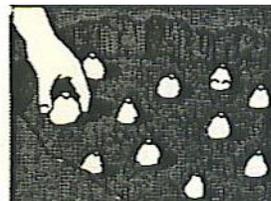
PREPARING A BED FOR FALL PLANTED BULBS



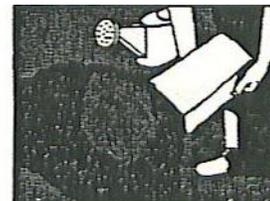
1. PREPARE BED



2. CONDITION SOIL



3. PLANT



4. COVER AND MULCH

Whether your soil is heavy clay that drains poorly or sandy soil that drains too quickly, it can be improved with the addition of peat moss and composted manure. Cover the entire bed with 7 cm of peat moss and 3 cm of manure, then work it in to a depth of 30 cm. Add 1 kg of Bone Meal for every 100 sq. ft. (or 10 sq. m.) of bed, and turn over into the soil to make it available at the root zone. Plant bulbs as soon as possible after purchasing.

A general rule for planting bulbs is to dig a hole to a depth 3 times their diameter. When planting in individual holes, sprinkle a tablespoon of high middle number (phosphorous) fertilizer (such as Holland Bulb Booster) in the bottom of the hole. Place the bulb in the hole with the pointed end up. Cover the bulb with soil and water thoroughly. A 5 cm layer of mulch will help prevent weeds, retain moisture, insulate against cold and soil temperature fluctuations.

TULIPS

Most bulbs have an obvious pointed top and round bottom, so we know how to plant. Tulips also usually have a flat 'side', which would go against the side of a pot when forcing or facing away from your point of view in the garden. In a group, the flat side should all face to the centre. The leaves of the tulip come from the flat side, with the flower stem in front.

PLANTING DEPTH – approx. 20 cm

SPACING – approx. 15 cm

Kaufmanniana Tulips – Very early flowering, 12 to 15 cm tall. Colours are red, scarlet, pink, yellow, white and two-tone.

The flowers are open with spreading petals, much like a Water Lily. Very good in rock gardens.

Fosteriana Tulips – Early flowering. Heights vary from 20 to 50 cm, most varieties are around 30 cm. Colours are red, scarlet, orange, pink, yellow, white and two-tone.

Red Emperor is a favourite in this type, 35 cm tall with large dazzling red flower. Some varieties have mottled foliage.

Wild Tulip Species – Early flowering, mostly 5 to 15 cm. Colours are red, orange, yellow, lilac and white. These historic species are excellent for naturalizing.

Greigii Tulips – Early flowering, mostly around 15 cm. Colours are red, scarlet, orange, pink, salmon, yellow and two-tone.

All varieties have mottled or striped foliage. Typical of this type is Red Riding Hood, 15 cm tall, carmine red with black base. Leaves are striped with dark red.

Early Single Tulips – Early flowering, mostly 30 cm tall. Colours are red, scarlet, orange, pink, yellow, white, purple and two-tone.

Early Double Tulips – Early flowering, mostly 20 cm, some to 30 cm. Colours are red, scarlet, orange, pink, yellow, white and two-tone.

Large, many petalled, peony like flowers. The blossoms on sturdy stems are very long lasting.

Triumph Tulips – Mid-season flowering, 32 to 45 cm tall. Colours are red, scarlet, orange, pink, rose, apricot, yellow, white, purple, violet and two-tone.

Darwin Hybrid Tulips – Mid-season flowering, 60 cm tall. Colours are red, scarlet, orange, pink, apricot, yellow, white and two-tone.

Large perfectly formed flowers on tall straight stems.

Lily Flowered Tulips – Mid-season flowering, 50 to 55 cm tall. Colours are red, deep rose, yellow, white and two-tone.

Petals are long, pointed and curving outward at the tips. Maytime is a two-tone violet edged with white.

Darwin Tulips – Late flowering, 60 to 65 cm tall. Colours are red, scarlet, orange, pink, salmon, rose, yellow, white, blue, purple, black and two-tone.

Perhaps the most popular class of tulip. Flowers are deep cup shaped on tall stems. Queen of the Night is 50 cm tall, deep velvety maroon, almost black.

Green Tulips – Late flowering, 40 to 45 cm tall. Colours are all two-tone with one colour being green. Red with green outside. Green edged rose. Yellow and green. Other combinations with white, salmon and rose - purple.

Something new and very different.

Fringed (Orchid) Tulips – Late flowering, 45 – 50 cm tall. All varieties have fringed crystalline edges. Colours are rose red, wine red, pink, and yellow. Also two-tone of red and apricot, and violet and purple.

Parrot Tulips – Late flowering, 50 cm tall. Colours are red, maroon – black, violet – blue, white and two-tone of yellow and red and pink and green.

Flowers are large with twisted, cut and feathered petals. In many, the colours are blotched and streaked.

Single Late Tulips – Late flowering, 35 to 70 cm. Colours are pink, deep purple, purple, yellow, white and a pale yellow changing to a salmon orange.

Double Late Tulips – Late flowering, 45 to 50 cm. Colours are red, pink, white, red and yellow, purple – red edged white.



NARCISSUS, DAFFODILS and JONQUILS **(Narcissus is the botanical name for all of them)**

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 20 cm

SPACING – Approx. 15 cm

Daffodils – Mid-season flowering, most 45 cm tall. Colours are golden yellow, yellow, white and yellow and white and pink.

Daffodils look great in every garden, and will naturalize and multiply year after year. The large flowered Golden Yellow, Trumpet Daffodil 'Dutch Master', is an excellent standard to which all others may be compared to, for quality and desirability.

The outside petals are the wheel-like perianth and the trumpet is the cup or corona.

Narcissus – Mid-season flowering, 35 cm tall. Colours are yellow, white and orange, roughly speaking and with many exceptions, Daffodils are mainly yellow and Narcissus is mainly white with a stronger coloured corona.

HYACINTHS

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 15 cm

SPACING – Approx. 15 cm

Not particularly recommended for naturalizing. They are cultivated to produce a large bloom stalk the first time they flower, and generally do not perform as well the next year. If, however, they are well fertilized and grown in good soil, rich in nutrients, they may come back again to the same size and stage as when first purchased. A winter mulch is recommended in coldest areas.

Their exquisite fragrance and ease of forcing makes them ideal for indoor culture and a touch of spring in mid-winter. Early flowering, 25 cm tall. Colours are pink, apricot, red, white, blue, violet and yellow.

Multiflora Hyacinth – Early flowering, 25 cm tall. Colours are pink, white and blue. Very rich flowering, producing several stems with loose trusses. For the garden or indoor forcing.

ORNAMENTAL ONIONS, LILIES AND THE MINOR BULBS

ALLIUM

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 20 CM

SPACING – Approx. 15 CM

Neapolitanum – White Garlic, 35 – 45 cm tall. Flowers are fragrant and make a dense umbel 5 to 8 cm across. Only marginally hardy, blooms in May.

Aflatuneuse – Ornamental Onion, 90 cm tall. Star-shaped florets create a 10 cm wide ball. Attractive lilac colour, blooms May – June.

Azureum – Blue Allium, 30 cm tall. Large round blue flower heads in July.

Giganteum – Giant Onion, 90 to 120 cm tall. Huge, bright lilac flower balls, 15 cm wide, late June and July.

Moly – Golden Garlic, 15 cm tall. Clusters of star-like bright, golden flowers in June.

Sphaerocephalum – Drumsticks, 60 cm tall. Reddish-purple somewhat elongated flower heads, on slender stems in July.

CHIONODOXA (GLORY OF THE SNOW)

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 15 cm

SPACING – Approx. 7 cm

Colours are blue, white and rose, 12 to 18 cm tall.

Chionodox lucilea – Early blooming, to 12 cm. Blue with White centre. Increases spread by self-sowing. Foliage dies down quickly.

Colchicum – Autumn Crocus is pale lilac and violet, 15 cm tall. Planted in the fall, Colchicum will flower right away and every fall thereafter. Foliage is rather obvious in spring, but dies down by summer. Good in meadow or woodland gardens.

CROCUS

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 15 cm

SPACING – Approx. 7 cm

Chrysanthus species – Very early spring flowering, 7.5 cm tall. Colours are pale blue, violet, white and yellow. Earliest flowering Crocus type. Will tolerate a few hours of shade.

Large Flowering Crocus – Early flowering, 10 cm tall. Colours are white, yellow, light blue, dark blue, purple and white striped with blue. The Crocus 'bulb' is properly termed a corm. Plant Crocus in clumps or drifts for best show.

ERANTHIS (WINTER ACONITE)

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 15 cm

SPACING – Approx. 7 cm

Very early flowering, 10 cm tall. Colour yellow. Low growing bright yellow buttercup-like flowers and a ruff of cut green leaves. A delightful, under utilized plant, which will probably be the very first sign of spring in your garden.

FRITILLARIA (CROWN IMPERIAL)

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 20 cm

SPACING – Approx. 30 cm

Mid-season flowering, 90 cm tall. Colours are red, orange-red and yellow. **Fritillaria persica** is plum-purple-maroon and 60 cm tall.

Crown Imperial has leaves growing all the way up the stem and at the top is a tuft of leaves under which hang the bell-like flowers. Hardy in Southern Ontario.

GALANTHUS (SNOWDROP)

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 15 cm

SPACING – Approx. 7 cm

Very early flowering, 10 cm tall. Colour – white. Plant in groups and leave undisturbed. Very durable. Prefers partial shade.

IRIS (BULB IRIS)

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 15 cm

SPACING – Approx. 7 cm

Very early flowering. **Danfordiae** – bright yellow, 15 cm tall.

Reticulata – dark violet, 18 cm tall.

Iris from true bulbs, need full sun and well-drained soil. Plant 10 cm deep to prevent bulb from breaking up into many small non-flowering bulblets.

DUTCH IRIS

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 15 cm

SPACING – Approx. 10 cm

Colours are blue, white and yellow. Not entirely hardy, provide well-drained soil. Plant bulbs and protect with 7 cm of mulch. Excellent for forcing indoors.

LEUCOJUM AESTIVUM (GIANT SNOWFLAKE)

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 15 cm

SPACING – Approx. 15 cm

Early flowering, 30 – 40 cm tall. Colour is white with green tips. Flowers are drooping bells, in clusters. Plant in rich but well-drained soil.

LILIUM (LILIES)

Candidum – Madonna lily. Early summer flowering, 120 cm tall. Colour is pure white. Fragrant. Earliest of the garden lilies to flower. Do not plant deep, only 2.5 cm of soil should cover the bulb. Best in well-drained soil.

ASIATIC HYBRID LILIES

Mid-summer flowering, 60 to 150 cm tall. Colours are white, yellow, orange, pink, lavender and red, alone or in combination with or without spotting.

Some flowers are upright, some outward facing and some pendant depending on the variety. Plant deep. The bottom of the bulb should be a depth three times the size of the bulb. i.e. if a bulb is 7 cm tall the bottom of the bulb should be at a depth of 21 cm.

All lilies need light loamy soil with excellent drainage. Add 5 to 7 cm of mulch on top of soil, to keep bulb cool. Lilies do not store well and should be planted immediately.

MUSCARI – (GRAPE HYACINTH)

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 10 cm

SPACING – Approx. 5 cm

Early flowering, 12 cm tall. Colour is blue. Fragrant.

Muscari armeniacum produces 4 or 5 flower stems per bulb. Plant 6 or 7 cm deep in sun or partial shade. Slender pointing leaves often appear in fall and remain green all winter. Plant generous quantities in fall. They are easy to grow and increase rapidly.

SCILLA SIBIRICA – SIBERIAN SQUILL

PLANTING DEPTH – Approx. 10 cm

SPACING – Approx. 7 cm

Early spring flowering, 10 to 15 cm. Colour is Dark Blue.

As the species name indicates, this Squill is extremely hardy, excellent for naturalizing. Good under deciduous trees.

MIXED SPARAXIS

Flowers present themselves in a cheerful mixture of tiny, colourful flowers, each with a black heart. Perfect for planting along garden paths or in a big bowl. 25 cm.

CYCLAMEN HEDERIFOLIUM

Flowers of pink to white seem to miraculously rise from the soil in late summer to early autumn upon the return of rains. Later, the space fills with heart-shaped foliage, mottled with silvers and whites and multi-shades of green.

RANUNCULUS

The blooms of the Ranunculus look like large buttercups. Thanks to their uncomplicated appearance they combine well in any garden setting. Available in various colours. 30 to 40 cm tall.



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