



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

Planting Bulbs in Containers

It's hard to start thinking about spring when we have just entered fall, but now is the time to plant your bulbs! Planning your bulb containers and plantings in the fall can give you rewarding fall edible plants or amazing colors come spring. Join Mike, the Garden Guru, as he digs deep into the bulb basics of planting in containers.

WHAT'S A BULB?

Bulbs are one of the easiest and rewarding blooming plants for the garden or landscape. A flower bulb is really a self-contained flower factory. Within this little package is nearly everything the flower needs to come to life! Split a tulip open, for instance, and you'll see its baby flower bud, leaves, roots, stem and food supply. All bulbs need from you is to be placed in the ground at the appropriate season of the year, given a liberal drink of water, then left to work their magic. Simply "dig, drop, done" in one season, then "delight" in what's next.

VARIETIES

Flower bulbs come in a seemingly limitless varieties which makes them perfectly suitable for any garden design you can dream up. Planting just a few can easily provide beautiful color in your garden for several months. The three most important factors to keep in mind are color (of course) but also plant height and flowering period.

WHEN TO PLANT

In general, there are two seasons for bulb planting:

Fall - after soil temperatures are below 50°F/10°C. These bulbs bloom the following spring and require the cold winter temperatures for development.

Spring - after the danger of frost has passed (tender bulbs love soil that is at least 60°F/15°C). These bulbs bloom in summer/fall.

HOW TO PLANT IN CONTAINERS:

It really is as easy as "dig, drop, done." Most bulbs thrive in either full or partial sun and in almost any container with good drainage. Avoid planting in containers that do not have holes or not enough drainage. Be sure to follow the specific planting instructions included with each variety and pay particular attention to planting depths.

- Good soil preparation is the very first step.
- ALWAYS use a good potting soil, our McDonald Garden Center potting soil is a great choice.
- Make sure soil is loose and porous to make the planting easier (and because good drainage is necessary for all types of bulbs).
- Place your soil mix in your selected container(s).
- Make a plan for your bulb planting, try sections of color or a scatter of bulbs.

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- Place your bulbs into your pot of choice. Make sure to pay attention to the planting depths of the bulbs you have chosen. Not all bulbs have the same planting depth!
- During planting, add some plant food to help the roots grow and give the plants the nutrients they will need to bloom. Espoma Biotone Starter Plus, Espoma Bulb-Tone, or Espoma Bone Mill are great choices.
- Add durable fall and winter annuals, like pansies, over your layers of bulbs to get you through the season with beautiful blooms.
- Water thoroughly.
- Wait until spring to see your bulbs bloom!

EXTRA BULB BASICS

Plant in various containers, borders, mass plantings, perennial gardens, pollinator gardens, containers, or use as a cut flower.

VEGETABLES BULBS

- Plant onions and garlic varieties in fall for a late spring-summer harvest.
- In spring, plant potatoes, onions, garlic, asparagus, and rhubarb.

SPRING/SUMMER-BLOOMING BULBS

Select these spring bloomers for constant color in your garden February through May:

Allium • tulips • daffodils (also called narcissus or jonquils) • hyacinth • snowdrops • Dutch iris • crocus • ranunculus • canna lily • muscari • dahlias
• bulb mixes

INDOOR BLOOMING BULBS (PREPARED)

Bulbs made to flower at other than normal times are said to be forced. The practice of forcing is commonly used to flower daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, crocus and other spring bulbs during the winter. With proper planning and care, bulbs can provide color indoors from late November until early April. These bulbs include:

Hyacinth • amaryllis • paperwhites (narcissus)
daffodils • tulips • crocus

TIP: Prepared bulbs - bulbs that have already gone through the cooling phase and are ready to bloom (paperwhites, amaryllis, hyacinth, etc). Once done indoors, plant them outdoors.

SOLUTIONS

- **Animal Repellent** - deters rabbits and deer.
- **Repellex** - deters moles and voles.
- **Espoma Soil Perfector** – great soil amendment but also deters critters, since they don't like to dig through it.
- **Daffodils** – animals don't like daffodils. Plant around tulips to help protect them from deer, squirrels, rabbits, and moles.

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