

Fact Sheet

Bulbs

We all know a daffodil or a tulip but there are many more types of bulbs available that even the most reluctant gardener will have little difficulty in growing. Most bulbs tend to be spring flowering however there are a significant number of varieties that will produce flowers during summer and autumn.

There are 4 types of bulbs to fall in this category:

1. **True bulbs** - made up of fleshy scales such as daffodils and hyacinths.
2. **Corms** - solid fleshy stem usually rounded e.g. ranunculas and gladioli.
3. **Rhizomes** - creeping fleshy stems e.g. iris.
4. **Tubers** - swollen rounded stems e.g. dahlias and cyclamen.

Cultivation:

Bulbs generally prefer good quality well drained soil with plenty of added humus prior to planting. Plant in a sunny position although some varieties do reasonably well in dappled shade such as under deciduous trees. Too much shade will prevent flowering.

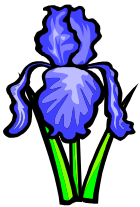
A general rule of thumb is to plant bulbs at a depth approximately twice the size of the bulb although in the case of nerines and belladonna lillies they need to have their necks exposed. It is important to plant them right side up, usually point upwards, if unsure old roots will give a clue.

After flowering, fertilize with Groplus Complete Food, DON'T remove them from the ground until all the leaves have died down for it is at this stage that they are storing food for the following seasons' flowers.

Not all bulbs need to be lifted each year however it is important to lift tulips and hyacinths or else they may rot over summer. If left in the ground most bulbs would benefit from lifting and dividing every few years. Store dormant bulbs in an onion bag and hang in a cool dry airy place. If leaving bulbs in the ground take care not to get them too wet in summer.

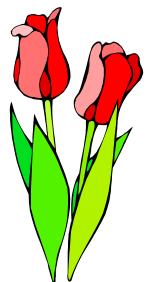
Some bulbs such as tulips will benefit from a short spell in the fridge to assist and initiate flower production.

Most bulbs make wonderful pot and tub specimens, plant in good quality potting mix, we recommend Stoneman's Premium Potting Mix, and bring inside the house whilst in bloom. It is very effective to mass plant pots with bulbs and flowering annuals.



Some of the more popular varieties are listed below:

Type	Plant	Depth	Blooms
Anemone	Autumn	50mm	Spring
Crocus	Autumn	50mm	Spring
Freesia	Autumn	75mm	Spring
Gladiolus	Spring	100mm	Summer
Dahlia	Spring	125mm	Summer
Iris (Dutch, Bulbs)	Autumn	75mm	Spring
Iris (Flag/Rhizome)	Winter	Soil level	Spring
Ixia	Autumn	75mm	Spring
Leucojum	Autumn	75mm	Spring
Hyacinth	Autumn	125mm	Spring
Lillium	Winter	150mm	Summer
Muscari	Autumn	50mm	Spring
Narcissus (Daffodils, etc)	Autumn	125-150mm	Spring
Nerine	Winter	soil level	Summer
Ranunculus	Autumn	50mm	Spring
Scilla	Autumn	50mm	Spring
Tulips	Autumn	150mm	Spring





Did you know that:

- * Tasmania has one of the best climates in the world in which to grow bulbs.
- * Daffodil and hyacinth bulbs are poisonous if ingested.
- * Anemone corms are planted flat side up, ranunculus corms are planted with the 'claws' facing downwards.
- * If 'cooling' tulip bulbs in fridge, place bulbs in egg carton for easy storage.
- * There are many bulbs that are shade loving, these include Lily of the Valley, Astilbes, Clivias, Crinums, Ginger Lillies, Hostas & Peony Roses.

