

Bulb Planting Techniques

**Transform next
Spring's landscape!**



**Plant bulbs
in the Fall!**

LOCATION AND COLOR GROUPING Choose a sunny location or a spot that currently has some shade but will get plenty of sun in late winter and spring when the leaves are off the trees. Most Spring bulbs look best in clumps or casual drifts of a dozen or two of the same color species, not a mix of colors. For a more formal look, plant in small bunches (not lined up next to each other) for borders or as edging for walks or foundation plantings.

BED PREPARATION Break up and loosen the soil to a depth of 10 to 12". Using a roto-tiller or spade, work in 1 bag of *Grandma's Planting Mix* per 25 square feet (5' x 5'). Dig the hole (a power drill with auger bit is a real timesaver) for bulb or group of bulbs at the proper depth (see below). Add a small handful of *Bulb-tone* organic fertilizer or bone meal to bottom of each hole. With roto-tiller, work in bulb food or bone meal at 1 pound per 25 square feet.

PLANTING Large bulbs such as Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths are planted 4" to 6" deep and 6" to 8" apart. Crocus, Muscari, Scilla and other small bulbs should be planted 2" deep and 3" apart. Water thoroughly before applying mulch and fill in any settled areas.

MULCHING After the first penetrating frost, protect the plantings with 2" to 3" of mulch.

WATERING During any prolonged dry spell, soak plantings thoroughly. Rain or snow should provide ample moisture, but make sure the soil stays moist through winter.

FEEDING When the first shoots appear in Spring, feed bulbs using *Bulb-tone* and water in well. Repeat every four weeks until flowers finish blooming and leaves turn yellow.

AFTER-BLOOM CARE After bulbs bloom, cut off spent flowers but NOT the green leaves which nourish the bulb for the next season's growth. Wait until the leaves have yellowed and dried and can be twisted off easily, leaving the bulb secure in the ground.

PESTS If you have regular visits from chipmunks or squirrels, brush the bulbs with vegetable oil and lightly coat with cayenne pepper before planting. You can also spray bulbs or plants with a ready-to-use animal repellent.



**Grandma's
Gardens & Landscape**

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