

Spring-Blooming Bulbs

DIG, DROP, DONE! Follow the national campaign..... Bulbs are both easy to grow and offer tons of seasonal flower power!

- Types of bulbs for spring – lots to choose from! See detailed list below for choices. Remember you see them blooming every spring and want them – but you have to plant them in fall – stay ahead of the game!
- Color from January/February through May – and many offer fragrance as well!
- Pay attention to packages and labels – they let you know spacing, depth, location, bloom time, and also denote “great for naturalizing” (see below).
- Growing bulbs in containers – easy way to add a pop of color and use those containers that are empty all winter. Do like I do – plant pots with annuals for summer color and then when emptying them in fall do bulbs in them for spring bloom.
- Picking Locations and Planting – watch sun/shade and drainage. In our wet winters drainage is a must – no clay/heavy soil and amend with compost.
- Fertilizing and care – use EB Stone Rose and Flower Food and/or Bone Meal when planting – or use Sure Start from EB Stone is does everything! When leaving in ground be sure to feed again coming out of winter to help for the next season.
- Critters – utilize a natural repellent to keep critters from bulb plantings. Animals tend to stay away from Narcissus as an example, but may like your tulips.
- Bulbs for Naturalizing – an easy way to establish them in the landscape. Making good choices for naturalizing bulbs will allow them to thrive for years in the garden and perform year after year.
- Bulbs to look for next spring – summer time! Just like in fall when we plant two seasons ahead, we do the same in spring for summer/fall bloomers.

Types of Spring Bulbs that are Planted in Fall

Crocus: A true welcome sign of spring weather to come – these are up early and provide color in January/February. Short and easy to grow. Try massing Crocus under deciduous plants for early bloom and let them naturalize. I love them under lace leaf maples at my place! Available in white, lavender, purple or yellow - or go bold and look for Orange Monarch, a cool newer orange one!

Hyacinth: Another early welcome to spring. These come in pastel colors and provide great color and exquisite fragrance in February and March. Plant in masses along borders and use in containers mixed with other spring bulbs. These can be forced as well for fragrance indoors! Every garden needs some Hyacinths for their smell and they're good as a cut flower, for early season bouquets indoors.

Erianthus: The winter aconite, one of my favorites for late winter color. Bright yellow blooms on these short growers that love to naturalize. An established patch of them looks like bright yellow blooming ground cover coming out of winter. Utilize them in shady spots under deciduous trees or in just about any shade/part shade spot in your garden.

Fritillaria: These offer some challenges for gardeners. Find a spot with good drainage and woody soil and they will offer some interesting flower power in late spring. There are several species and forms available at garden centers. Are you up for a gardening challenge? Then go for it!

Galanthus/Scilla/Puschkinia/Chionodoxa/Ipheion/Leucojum: These are all early spring bloomers that are great for naturalizing in the garden. The best part is that these are all bulbs that the deer will not eat! These are short growers in the 6" to 12" tall range. Great in woodland gardens and in part shade to full shade areas. They come in pastel colors in the white-blue-pink-lavender color range. **Galanthus** (Snowdrops) are fragrant in late winter. **Scilla** (Squill or Wood Hyacinth) can be fragrant and are awesome massed in gardens for an impressive bloom display. **Puschkinia** (Squill) boast some striping in the blooms. **Chionodoxa** (Blue Glory of the Snow) and **Ipheion** (Spring Star Flower) naturalize beautifully and show bluish lavender flowers in early spring. **Leucojums** (Snowflakes) resemble snowdrops but offer taller blooms at just over a foot. Remember to just say "NO!" to the deer eating your bulbs!

Alliums: These are late spring bloomers and quite impressive in flower. Tall stalks with large round blooms in the white/lavender/purple/pink color palette. From big open blooms that look like fireworks to almost soccer ball sized ones, Alliums are both different and exotic. Easy to grow with good drainage and they come back year after year. Tuck into the perennial/shrub garden for a pop of color and also use in containers. Sun is best on these.

Bearded Iris: These reblooming Iris are great for late spring color and will continue to bloom late summer/fall, if deadheaded. These are typically around 3 feet tall and are nice tucked in amongst perennials in the garden. There are definitely some interesting color combinations out there. Make sure they are watered frequently over the summer months, they will not re-bloom if allowed to dry out. **Dutch** – These bright blooming Iris are nice for mid-spring and make excellent cut flowers. Dutch Iris grow in the 2' tall range and are easy to naturalize. Keep them watered over the summer months for consistent flower show year to year. **Reticulata** – These Iris grow only 6" tall and bloom in February! These little dwarfs are easy to grow and naturalize. They are awful

cute in pots and tucked into borders. They come in white, purple, yellow and blue colors. Mix with Crocus, Hyacinth, and other early bulbs for early color show.

Muscari: Want an easy bulb to naturalize and take over some real estate? Get Muscari for sure. These impressive bloomers come in all colors and are really easy to grow. The squirrels will love to move some around for you as well, at no charge of course!

Cyclamens: These cool bulbous perennials can be found in bulb form in spring and can also be bought as growing specimens during the season. Great foliage for the shade garden and has nice blooms in fall and over the winter, depending on the weather. Two species seem to be the best – *hederifolium* and *coum* – and both come in some different flower and foliage forms. Both make nice shady ground covers too! Sometimes hard to find the “bulb” to plant but fall is always time to look for starts and get them in the ground.

Tulips: A huge array of bulbs that are grouped into types with particular growth habits and bloom times. Plant in masses or swathes for impressive bloom display. Mix varieties to extend blooms all the way throughout spring! Utilize in containers and mix with complimentary Daffodils for an impressive display of flower power in early, mid or late spring.

Single/Double Early: Nice early bloomers with sturdy stems and excellent hardiness. Grow in the 12” to 18” high range and some flavors offer fragrance. Look for either single or double bloomers.

Fosteriana (Emporer): Classic large petal Tulips with early spring blooms. They boast strong stems and heights in the 12” to 16” tall range.

Species: Numerous species can be found in this category. These are the best ones for naturalizing and minimal care.

Triumph: These are classic Tulips available in every shade or color, from pastel to jewel tones. They have strong stems and are perfect in pots or along borders for mid-spring bloom. Heights are up to 24” and many exude fragrance as well. Numerous traditional classic ones in all kinds of colors.

Darwin Hybrids: These mid-spring bloomers are known for their vivid colors, beautiful flower shape and hardiness. Most are around 24” in height. These are the best Tulips to utilize as cut flowers.

Single/Double Late: These bloom late spring and are some of the most popular for home gardeners. These are the taller growers in the 18” to 24” and taller range. Be sure to plant these in somewhat protected areas as they will be damaged by heavy rain and wind, especially the doubles.

Others: Worth mentioning are Fringed Tulips, Lily Flowering Tulips, Parrot, Viridiflora and Greigii Tulips.

Daffodils/Narcissus: The classic spring flower that is sure to brighten up every spring garden. Available in many styles, heights and colors. Most are excellent for naturalizing and when given good drainage, will come back and bloom bigger and better year after year. Plant in masses for big impact! Mix with complimentary Tulips for one impressive spring show!

Trumpet: Classic Daffs in the 16” to 24” tall range. They bloom early to mid-spring and last a long time. Utilize classics like ‘Dutch Master’ or there is always a new flavor to entice you!

Cyclamineus: Great early bloomers in a miniature package! Height under a foot and they are awesome in containers or in the garden. You can’t lose with ‘Tete-a-Tete’ – one the BEST out there – but lots of other cool colors available. Will naturalize nicely as well.

Large Cupped: These are a hardy group of Daffs with wide range of color and trumpet shapes. These are great planted in borders, landscape beds, containers or used for forcing as well indoors. Check each variety for bloom time and heights – these can be early to late spring bloomers and can be in the 12” to 24” tall range.

Split Corona: These whimsical looking Daffs have some interesting color combinations and frilly cups in the center of the flowers. Bloom mid-late spring and are especially nice in bulb containers.

Doubles: These full flowering Daffs can have double trumpet or flower or both. They will grow in the 12” to 18” tall range and tend to be heavy bloomers and often fragrant. Utilize in borders or containers, but try to keep out of windy areas as they will break on occasion.

Small Cupped: Great Daffs for naturalizing that are easy and brightly colored. Most are nice and short, in the foot range, and many smell delicious as well.

Jonquilla: These are the fragrant group of Daffs, a little less hardy, but Zone 5 is plenty for us. These will fill the garden with sweet smell on sunny days in spring. They are typically short in the 8” to 12” tall range and are easy to grow and naturalize with good drainage. Don’t forgot pots too – they will smell your containers up each spring!

***Remember nothing welcomes spring like flowering bulbs – Dig, Drop, Done!**

***Try mixing an assortment of your favorites in a container, stagger bloom times and enjoy a colorful pot for months anywhere around the home!**