



The Plant Kingdom

Garden Center & Landscape Service

Bulb Planting Guide

Planting spring flowering bulbs is an easy way to add color to the early spring garden. But, in order for them to flower in spring they must be planted the fall before. Bulb planting season begins mid-September and continues through early December.

How to plant a bulb:

1. Stop by The Plant Kingdom to select your bulbs early while the selection is at its best. When selecting bulbs keep in mind flower color, bloom time, and space. If you have deer problems, check out our selection of deer resistant bulbs or consistently use liquid or granular repellents.
2. Prepare your planting area- remove weeds and cultivate the soil. Soil amendments like Mr. Natural Complete Landscape Mix can be added to the area, especially when planting annual bulbs like tulips. Bulbs thrive best in prepared areas with well-draining soil.
3. Apply a bulb appropriate fertilizer to the freshly cultivated soil surface following all package directions. The fertilizer will then be incorporated during the planting process.
4. Plant each bulb 2-3 times deeper than the height of the bulb. Small amounts of bulbs can be individually placed in small planting holes, while larger amounts can be placed side-by-side in the bottom of trenches until all of the bulbs are used or the selected area is full.
5. Rake/grade the planting area smooth. If you forgot to add fertilizer earlier you can add it now.
6. Spread 2-3 inches of organic bark mulch over the area where the bulbs are planted.
7. Water the area thoroughly after mulching and look forward to seeing them flower next spring.

Recommendations:

- Planting the area above the bulbs, especially tulips, with bright and fun cool season pansies will add additional impact to the area for the fall and winter months.
- Photograph your spring bulbs when in flower to record their location for adding new bulbs in the fall. It is easy to forget exactly where they are planted when they are dormant.
- Bulbs are the prettiest when planted in groups- groups of 7 or more look best. Groups can be large or small depending on space and budget.
- Using a bulb appropriate fertilizer at planting is essential for good root development and establishment of the bulb. Bulbs should also be fertilized before new growth begins in spring or just as the new growth is emerging out of the ground.

As reward for your hard work, you will be able to enjoy the first signs of spring when your bulbs emerge from your garden next year.