

BULBS

WHEN TO PLANT: Plant bulbs after the weather has turned consistently cool and before the ground is frozen. Daffodils, Crocus, Fritillaria, Winter Aconite, Scilla, and many other early blooming bulbs should be planted in late October. Wait until November to plant tulips. Winter warm spells may result in premature leaf growth, but the flower buds are safe within the bulb and will not be harmed.

Forgotten bulbs can be planted as long as the soil is workable. Late plantings will bloom later and have shorter stems, or may not bloom at all, but they won't keep until the following year. Store bulbs in a cool well-ventilated place until they can be planted.

WHERE TO PLANT: Planting in well-drained areas is essential. Bulbs in damp areas will rot. Add lots of organic matter such as American Plant Planting Mix, Pine Bark Soil Conditioner or Leaf Gro. Raised beds or gentle slopes are ideal. Most bulbs thrive in full sun, but tolerate partial shade if they receive 5 to 6 hours of strong light each day.

Many early blooming bulbs (March-April) can be planted under deciduous trees and can still bloom and regenerate themselves before the trees have fully leafed out.

HOW DEEP: The general rule for planting depth is 3 times the height of the bulb. This will mean 6 - 8" for large varieties such as tulips and large daffodils, 4 - 6" for smaller types, and 2 - 4" for minor bulbs and miniatures. Deep planting increases bulb life span and incorporating ground oyster shells into the top layer of soil after planting will provide some protection from squirrels, chipmunks, and other rodents.

SPACING: Plant large bulbs like tulips and daffodils 6 - 8" apart, smaller ones 4 - 6" apart and tiny ones 2 - 3" apart. When naturalizing, plant the bulbs in a free-form group. You may want to gently toss your bulbs onto the area you plan to put them and plant them where they fall.

Always plant bulbs in clusters or waves rather than in rows. This will give you eye-catching splashes of color. Plant large bulbs in groups of at least 12 and smaller bulbs in groups of at least 25.

FERTILIZATION: We recommend a full analysis bulb fertilizer like 'Bulb-tone' or one of the bulb fertilizers from Holland. 'Bulb-tone' should be incorporated into the soil at planting time, or top dressed following planting. Feed again in Spring. If you are using the Holland bulb fertilizer (a sustained-release fertilizer) work it into the soil at planting time or top dress following planting. Repeat in Spring. Do not place bulbs on fertilizer in the bottom of the hole because it may burn the bulb.

WATERING: WATER WELL! Bulbs will not develop roots if soil is too dry. Water bulbs thoroughly following planting and once a week thereafter if we're not receiving 1" of rain a week.

MULCHING: Use pine bark, or shredded hardwood to keep down weeds, conserve moisture, and moderate soil temperatures. Matted leaves may have to be cleared away in Spring to prevent bent stems and contorted leaves.



Retail Locations

5258 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816
301-656-3311

americanplant.net

7405 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
301-469-7690

Landscape Design

Build | Maintain
301-762-6301

MAJOR REASONS FOR BULB FAILURE

- Bulbs were planted too late in the Fall, just before very cold weather. Not enough time for good root development before ground froze.
- Bulbs were planted in dry soil and not watered adequately or Fall was dry and bulbs did not receive supplementary watering. Moisture is essential for good root development.
- Soil pH was below 5.5 or above 7.3.
- Poorly drained soil caused bulbs to rot. Heavy clay soil must be amended with generous amounts of granular material.

WHY DIDN'T MY BULBS BLOOM?

- Size of bulb was too small to bloom the first year.
- Area is too shady, or shade has been increasing over the years.
- Bulbs have become too crowded.
- Lack of fertilizer has caused bulb size to diminish.
- Foliage cut off too early the previous year.
- Competition from shallow-rooted trees or shrubs.

Deer & Squirrel Resistant Bulbs

Allium	Allium
Crocus	Crocus
Daffodil	Narcissus
Fritillary	Fritillaria
Grape Hyacinth	Muscari
Hyacinth	Hyacinthus
Quamash	Camassia
Snowdrops	Galanthus
Snowflake	Leucojum aestivum
Squill	Scilla & Puschkinia
Windflower	Anemone blanda
Winter Aconite	Eranthis

Bulbs for Shade

Bluebells	Hyacinthoides
Checkered Lily	Fritillaria meleagris
Crocus	Crocus
Giant Allium	Allium giganteum
Glory of the Snow	Chionodoxa
Grape Hyacinth	Muscari
Martagon Lilly	Lillium
Snowdrops	Galanthus
Snowflake	Leucojum aestivum
Squill	Scilla siberica & Puschkinia scilloides
Windflower	Anemone blanda
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