

● THE COMPLETE

PLANTING GUIDE

One hour of gardening in autumn, months of colour come spring.

TULIPS

DAFFODILS

POTS & BORDERS

FOR EVERYONE

● DID YOU KNOW?

Plant in autumn, bloom in spring.

PLANTING SEASON: SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

Just an hour of gardening in autumn delivers months of colourful spring blooms. Hear the leaves crunch under your feet, feel the fresh autumn breeze and imagine your garden or balcony coming alive with the first flowers of spring.

All you have to do is start planting your flower bulbs in autumn, any time from September until the first hard frost. Invite family, friends or neighbours over for a cosy autumn day of planting, then celebrate with a cup of hot chocolate and a crackling fire.

**ENJOY THE ANTICIPATION
OF SPRING FLOWERING BULBS!**



● **GET TOGETHER**

MAKE A FUN DAY OUT OF IT

Grab your spade, put on your boots and get to work together. Hand out the flower bulbs, choose the best spots in the garden and plant a mix of colours for an extra-long flowering season.

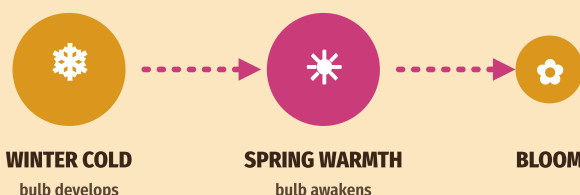
And when the job is done, light the garden brazier, give everyone a hot drink and enjoy the rest of the day together.



A MIRACLE OF NATURE

WHY PLANT BULBS IN AUTUMN?

When you plant a bulb, the flower is already tucked away inside it. It just needs the cold winter days to develop. As temperatures rise in spring, the bulb awakens and starts growing and flowering.



● **SPRING GARDEN WITH FLOWER BULBS**

Flower bulbs are the easiest way to bring your garden, balcony or terrace to life in spring. Think cheerful daffodils, colourful tulips and fragrant hyacinths, along with grape hyacinths, crocuses and ornamental onions (alliums) for a floral celebration from early to late in the season. And these familiar favourites are only the beginning: there are many more kinds of flower bulbs to discover. Whatever you love, from soft pastels to bright, punchy colours, there's always a flower bulb to suit you.



● THE BASICS

PLANT FLOWER BULBS IN 4 EASY STEPS

You really can't go wrong. Follow these four steps and let nature take care of the rest.

1

PICK YOUR SPOT

Choose a sunny or partly shaded spot in the garden, or plant in pots for the balcony or patio.

2

MIND THE DEPTH

Plant them about two to three times as deep as the bulb is tall, pointy side up.

3

MIX IT UP

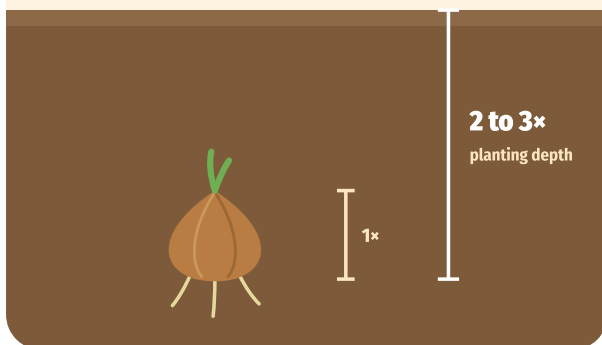
Combine various types of flower bulbs so you can enjoy flowers throughout the whole season.

4

WATER & WAIT

Water well after planting and simply let nature do its thing. That's it!

SOIL SURFACE



RULE OF THUMB

Dig a hole about two to three times as deep as the bulb is tall. Always set the bulb **pointy side up**, with the roots facing down, then firm the soil back and water generously.

🌱 STEP BY STEP



DIG A HOLE



DROP THE BULB IN



SPACE THEM OUT



COVER WITH SOIL



WATER WELL

● THE BASICS · IN DEPTH

GET IT RIGHT, FIRST TIME

DO

- ✓ **Plant in autumn**, before the first hard frost, roughly from September to December.
- ✓ **Improve the soil first.** Enrich poor ground with compost, and lighten heavy clay with sand or grit so water drains freely.
- ✓ **Point the tip up.** Roots grow from the flat base, the shoot from the point.
- ✓ **Plant in generous groups** of one colour, or mix varieties for a long season.
- ✓ **Water once after planting** to help the bulbs settle and start rooting.

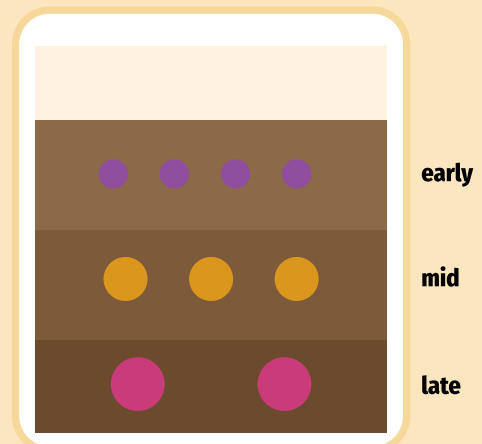
DON'T

- ✗ **Don't plant too shallow**, or bulbs can dry out or topple over.
- ✗ **Don't leave bulbs sitting** in water or heavy, compacted clay.
- ✗ **Don't cut back the foliage** of returning bulbs too soon, let it die down first (bulbs grown as annuals are the exception).
- ✗ **Don't worry about perfection.** Bulbs are forgiving and love to grow.

PRO TIP · THE LASAGNE METHOD

LAYER FOR A LONGER SHOW

Plant flower bulbs in layers, with the biggest, latest bloomers deepest and the small early ones on top. As one variety fades, the next comes through, giving you weeks of continuous colour from a single pot or hole.



● **FOR EVERYONE**

BRIGHT, CHEERFUL COLOUR FOR EVERY SPACE

Planting flower bulbs in pots and containers gives everyone a chance to enjoy the bright, cheerful colours of these stunning flowers. They look just right in any garden and on every balcony or patio, no matter how large or small the space. You can even enjoy them if all you have is a windowsill or a doorstep.

SHARE YOUR SPRING

Tag us on Instagram [@flowerbulbsdotcom](https://www.instagram.com/flowerbulbsdotcom) and follow **DiscoverFlowerBulbs** on Facebook for daily inspiration.



HOW TO PLANT BULBS IN POTS

Choose a pot that is deep enough to allow the bulbs to be planted at a depth of about two to three times their own height, just as you would in the open ground. Make sure the pot has a drainage hole at the bottom so excess water can escape.

- 1 Cover the drainage hole with a small piece of pot shard to stop potting compost from escaping.
- 2 Add a layer of potting compost to the bottom of the pot.
- 3 Plant the bulbs in the compost. For a colourful display, plant them closer together than you would in a border, leaving roughly **one bulb's width** between them.
- 4 Add a layer of potting compost on top of the bulbs and gently firm it down.
- 5 Water generously so the bulbs root properly. Excess water drains through the hole at the bottom.
- 6 Check the pots regularly in **January and February** and water if the compost has dried out.
- 7 Then just wait for spring to do the rest!



WATCH HOW IT'S DONE

Scan for our step-by-step video on planting flower bulbs in pots, or visit youtu.be/_lnXdOzkyPo



● ON YOUR BALCONY

CREATE A MINI-GARDEN

Set flower bulbs in pots on a table to create an inviting mini-garden on your balcony or patio. Use lots of small pots filled with little varieties such as snowdrops (*Galanthus*), crocuses (*Crocus*), grape hyacinths (*Muscari*) and dwarf irises (*Iris reticulata*).

What a colour explosion this makes in early spring!

NICE IDEA

A GIFT THAT KEEPS GROWING

A pot planted with flower bulbs makes a lovely, original present. Even a simple bag of dry flower bulbs, tied with a ribbon, gives someone a whole spring of blooms to look forward to.



● MEET THE BULBS

WHICH BULBS WILL YOU PLANT?

From the very first snowdrop to the last late tulip, mix and match these favourites for a garden that flowers right through spring, early, mid and late season.



TULIPS

Tulipa

The all-time classic, March to May.



DAFFODILS

Narcissus

Cheerful and reliable, back every year.



HYACINTHS

Hyacinthus

Fragrant, richly coloured spikes.



GRAPE HYACINTH

Muscari

Little blue spires, early spring.



CROCUS

Crocus

One of the very first to flower.



FRITILLARY

Fritillaria

Nodding, chequered bells.



ALLIUMS

Allium

Bold purple globes, late spring.



DWARF IRIS

Iris reticulata

Jewel-like blooms for small pots.

Combine early risers like crocus and snowdrop with mid-season daffodils and hyacinths, then late tulips and alliums, for colour that carries on for months.



DISCOVER MORE & GET INSPIRED

Scan to explore the full range of spring flowering bulbs, where we share loads of planting blogs, combination ideas and seasonal inspiration.

● GOOD FOR NATURE

A GARDEN FULL OF BUTTERFLIES & BEES

Butterflies drifting from flower to flower is one of the loveliest sights in any garden. Plant spring flowering bulbs in autumn and you'll turn your garden, or even a few pots on the balcony, into a pollinator paradise next spring.

WHERE'S THE NECTAR?

The first bulbs flower in early spring, right when butterflies, honeybees and bumblebees wake up hungry for nectar. The greater the variety you plant, the more visitors you'll welcome. One thing to keep in mind: only **single-flowered** varieties offer easy-to-reach nectar. **Double-flowered** types look full and showy, but their packed petals make it hard for bees and butterflies to reach the nectar, leaving them little to feed on.

BUTTERFLY-FRIENDLY FAVOURITES

CROCUS

HYACINTH

DAFFODIL

GRAPE HYACINTH

SCILLA

IPHEION

CHIONODOXA

ALLIUM

CAMASSIA

TIP • THE LONGEST SEASON

Use the lasagne method in pots: late bloomers like allium at the bottom, early crocus on top. More weeks of flowers means more weeks of nectar for pollinators.



DID YOU KNOW?

THE TULIP: A DUTCH ICON

Of all the bulbous plants, the tulip is without doubt the most popular. Tulips are grown on an enormous scale, especially in the Netherlands, where their history goes back to the late sixteenth century, when the first tulips were spotted growing near Leiden.

More than 400 years later, billions of tulips are cultivated and exported from the Netherlands every year, both as dry bulbs and as cut flowers. Today's garden tulips are the result of centuries of careful crossing and selection.

3,000+

CULTIVATED VARIETIES
REGISTERED

400

YEARS OF DUTCH
TULIP HISTORY

CREATE YOUR OWN “MINI KEUKENHOF”

Plant a border full of tulips or group several pots together. By combining early and late varieties, you'll enjoy their beauty from the first blooms in late winter right through to the last in May.



From soft pastels to almost-black beauties: with more than 3,000 varieties, there really is a tulip for every taste.



● **READY TO SHOP**

WHERE CAN I BUY FLOWER BULBS?

You can find high-quality flower bulbs at garden centres, home-improvement stores and online retailers. Many reputable websites specialise in spring flowering bulbs and offer home delivery. Shop early in the season for the widest choice, the best varieties sell out fast.



LOOK FOR DUTCH BULBS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

For the best results, look for Dutch flower bulbs, known for their premium quality, vibrant blooms and strong genetics. The Netherlands is the global leader in bulb cultivation, thanks to its ideal climate, rich soil and generations of horticultural expertise. Always buy from trusted suppliers to be sure of top-grade bulbs that will flourish in your garden.

WHERE TO BUY



GARDEN CENTRES



SUPERMARKETS



HOME-IMPROVEMENT STORES



HARDWARE STORES



WAREHOUSE STORES



DISCOUNT STORES



DOLLAR STORES



DRUGSTORES



CONVENIENCE STORES



MILITARY STORES



ONLINE STORES



E-TAILERS

Sep-Dec
BUY & PLANT



Winter
CHILL & DEVELOP



Feb-May
BLOOM & ENJOY

● ABOUT US

ABOUT FLOWERBULBS.CO.UK

Flowerbulbs.co.uk is an independent organisation that represents the companies that trade in flower bulbs. Rather than selling anything ourselves, we're here to share the sheer joy of flower bulbs with gardeners everywhere.

We gather trustworthy, practical know-how, from planting tips to inspiring combinations, and pass it on freely so that everyone, from first-timers to seasoned green thumbs, can enjoy a garden full of colour.

GROWN WITH CARE, SHARED WITH JOY

Honest inspiration, no hard sell. Just beautiful flower bulbs and the know-how to help them thrive.



DiscoverFlowerBulbs



@flowerbulbsdotcom



● READY, SET, PLANT

START PLANTING THIS AUTUMN

“Plant a little in autumn, and spring will reward you with months of colour. Do the work before winter, enjoy the blooms long after.”



SCAN FOR BLOGS &
INSPIRATION



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