



Easy Guide to Bulb Planting

By Tammy Borden ©

Planning on planting bulbs this fall? It's exciting to plant a seemingly lifeless, brown nugget, only to see a beautiful flower appear months later. Here are some great tips to help you get the biggest and boldest flowers come spring!

WHEN: In Wisconsin, plant spring flowering bulbs in September and October. Technically, you can plant them as long as the ground isn't frozen, but you want to allow time for roots to develop before they go dormant for the winter.

LOCATION: Select a sunny site! Remember, however, that earlier flowering bulbs can be planted beneath deciduous trees. They'll get plenty of sun before the leaves come out.

SOIL: Well-drained soil is the key. For those with heavy, compacted, or clay soil, dig deep and work in lots of organic matter, peat moss, and compost before planting. If not, you'll be disappointed in spring when you find your flowers are stunted and the bulbs have become diseased or rotten.

FERTILIZER: Good, healthy bulbs shouldn't need fertilizer to bloom, but the added nutrients will help insure a great display. Don't just use any old fertilizer; use one specifically formulated for bulbs.

DEPTH & SPACING: Check the package! But generally, larger bulbs like tulips, daffodils and hyacinths should be planted deep – about 8 inches, while smaller bulbs are usually planted around 5 inches. Space larger bulbs 3-10 inches apart and smaller bulbs 1-2 inches apart. Oh, pointy side up! After planting, water well and cover with a layer of mulch to prevent heaving from the frost.

SOME SURE WINNERS:

Christophii Allium – The huge globe-like clusters of airy blooms last a long time and add intrigue planted among hostas.

Mount Hood Daffodil – A classic, large, stunning creamy white daffodil.

Angelique Tulip – Features full, fragrant, soft pink double blooms resembling a peony.

Camassia quamash – Unique stalks of periwinkle blue star-shaped blooms

The varieties of spring flowering bulbs are endless, and the small offering of favorites listed here doesn't even touch the surface of the beauty that awaits you in spring. Apply these guidelines to some new and unusual varieties and see how they bloom!