



Bulbs

Bulbs. The mere thought of that word would send my mother running. To me those little orbs were like gems hidden in a treasure chest, just waiting to be discovered in the spring. I have worked here at Warner's for quite a few seasons now, and many of the customers that I have spoken with have about the same reaction as my mother did. What is it about bulbs that intimidate people so much? Well, I'm not exactly certain, but hopefully this article might help unravel some of their complexities.

What is a Bulb? Well, technically it's a type of root base that supports and stores nutrients for the leaves of a plant. Plants like onions, Tulips, and Daffodil's are all types of bulbs. There are also other types of root bases that store nutrients, and those have fancier names such as corms (Gladiolus, and Crocus), rhizomes (iris, asparagus, daylilies) and tubers (regular and sweet potatoes). For simplicity, and the purposes of this article, I'm going to use the term "bulb" for all of these categories.

Generally the care for outdoor bulbs is very simple. They need water, sun, fertilizer (bone meal is best) and well drained soil. Yup, that's it. Now here comes the tricky part. Remember a few paragraphs ago I mentioned that a bulb stores nutrients? Well imagine a water balloon that's full, and imagine what happens when you try and add more water. It will burst right? Well it's the same with a bulb. Too much water will cause the root to rot, so watering during the monsoon season needs to be monitored. Generally this water issue can be easily avoided if you have well-drained soil. This means that your soil should be amended with planting mixes (such as Warner's Supreme Planting mix) or potting soils. Clay soil should be avoided, as it does not drain well, and can compact to cement-like hardness that doesn't allow the roots or bulb to grow.

So- first determine the area you would like to plant and pay close attention to the amount of sun that that area gets. Then, mix in some planting mix and sprinkle on some bone meal organic fertilizer, and plant those little gems in the soil. The hardest part is waiting till spring to see them! Oh- and don't forget to stop in and ask any of us here at Warner's if you have questions, or need assistance with choosing the proper soils and fertilizers!