

Planting Spring Blooming Bulbs

Blubs, Bulbs, Bulbs!



WARNER'S
NURSERY



Give yourself 100 days of spring beauty

Spring bulbs are a delight for any gardener, but they do require some planning and preparation. Planting bulbs that will bloom throughout the spring season is the key to having a colorful and fragrant garden. The early-season bulbs will often bloom before trees and shrubs start to leaf out in the spring, which is a great way to beat the winter blues!

Try this: Combine a variety of bulbs, some of each category, into one bed (with proper spacing), and you will have constant blooms throughout the spring.

1

EARLY SEASON BLOOMS:

Hyacinth 10" high
Crocus 4" high

2

MID SEASON BLOOMS:

Muscari 12" high
Tulip 24" high
Narcissus 16" high

3

LATE SEASON BLOOMS:

Allium 35" high
Bearded Iris 36" high
Dutch Iris 20" high



Each spring, beautiful displays of tulips, daffodils, crocus and more can be seen throughout Flagstaff. These and other spring-blooming bulbs provide bright spots of color during the still chilly and sometimes grey months of spring.

Our four-season, high-elevation mountain area is perfect for spring bulbs because they require cold weather in order to bloom. Once they do, they are not bothered by frost or even a late snow. Bulbs are also an affordable option for budget-conscious gardeners; for less than a dollar, you can purchase bulbs that will yield larger plants with more blooms in future years.

When bulbs start to bloom around town in March or April, many gardeners come in looking to buy some, but spring bulbs require planting the previous September or October. Read on to discover what needs to be done to prepare your spring bulbs for an incredible color display.

Planting

Spring blooming bulbs need well-draining soil and at least partial sun to bloom at their best. Amend your soil with Warner's Supreme Planting Mix to a depth of 12 inches to create a loose, well-drained soil texture. When planting, place the bulb facing upward in a hole about three times as deep as the bulb is tall. This means that large bulbs like tulips or daffodils will be planted about 8 inches deep while smaller bulbs will be planted about 4 inches deep, measured from the bottom of the bulb. The top of the bulb is the pointed side, called the nose, and the flat side is the bottom, referred to as the root plate.



Fertilizing

Your Spring blooming bulbs will need to be fertilized when planted with Bone Meal or Dutch Bulb Food. These products are high in phosphorous. Either one can be added to the bottom of the hole and mixed with a small scoop of mulch before placing the bulb and filling up the hole. Top dressing with fertilizer after planting will not have the same positive effects. Sprinkle a tiny bit of Blood Meal in the bottom of each hole and around the finished top area to ward off pesky animals looking to make a treat out of freshly planted bulbs.

Watering

Give your newly planted bulbs a good soaking right after planting. If we receive at least two inches of snow every ten days, your bulbs won't need additional watering through the winter. If it's a dry winter without much snow, you should water your bulbs once a month. In the Spring, when shoots appear, start watering bulbs about once a week, providing a deep soaking rather than shallow sprinkling. Take care not to overwater as this promotes bulb rot.

Spring Fertilizing

As soon as you see growth on your bulbs in the Spring, fertilize the area with a quality fertilizer that encourages blooming, until the bulbs flower. After the bulbs begin to flower, stop and enjoy the show!

Maintenance

After your bulbs flower, you are left with the leaves which many consider messy and unattractive. These should not be cut off. The leaves are necessary for the plant to photosynthesize and produce energy that will be stored in the bulb for the next year's flower show. One easy solution to hiding the mess is to layer planting beds so that the remaining bulb foliage is hidden by emerging spring perennials. Another solution is to trim back the flower stems and leave the foliage as a green accent. Once that foliage has turned yellow or brown and died back, it can be removed.

Our days are still warm and it's still a great time to be outside. Enjoy the weather and add a beautiful spring accent to your garden by planting bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, crocus, and iris.

You will be glad you did next spring when you are able to enjoy your amazing display of spring color!