

“All the wars of the world, all the Caesars, have not the staying power of a lily in a cottage garden.” ~Reginald Farrer

discolored, or soft. Some bulbs such as tulips and narcissus have a protective layer that allows them to be stored for several weeks. Other bulbs, such as snowdrops and lilies, are less hardy and should be planted as soon as possible.

SOIL

Most flowering bulbs prefer well drained soil, and will not grow well in poorly drained soil. Organic matter such as compost, clippings, peat moss, or well-rotted manure should be added to soil before planting your bulbs.

SPACING

The distance between your bulbs depends on the size of the bulb, plant, and flower. Small bulbs should be planted closer together and larger bulbs should be planted farther apart. When bulbs are spaced too close together, the lack of distance compromises the plant's foliage. Small leaves and flowers are often the result of closely planted flowers.

When determining where to plant your bulbs, scout your yard for areas with good drainage. When soil is too damp, the extra moisture can cause plants to rot. If possible,

avoid planting bulbs close to a hose or sprinkler system. Height is another factor to consider when planting bulbs. Flowers such as snowdrops are closer to the ground, and make ideal borders for the front of your flower bed. Tall flowers like giant tulips and allium are best suited in the back of the garden.

PLANTING

To plant bulbs, a good rule of thumb is to dig a hole about three times as deep as the diameter of the bulb. If you live in a region with extremely cold weather, dig holes slightly deeper and make sure the subsurface is well-drained. Bulbs should be placed with the pointed side facing up, and holes should be filled in with soil and watered.

FERTILIZING

The ideal time to fertilize your plants is when the ground starts to thaw, and new roots begin to form. Fertilizer should be carefully measured, as over fertilizing plants could be fatal. Use organic compost or slow-release fertilizer for best results.



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