

## **Planting Fall Bulbs**

Planting fall bulbs is a very rewarding task especially when you look out the window the following spring and your yard is covered with tulips, daffodils, crocus and unusual spring blooming flowers. It's the time of year when you are in desperate need of some colour after a long winter of snow covered gardens. You will be glad you took the time in the fall to put these beauties into the ground.

### **First Things First ... Location!**

Find the right location for the right kinds of bulbs. Most bulbs like a sunny location but in the case of spring blooming bulbs, the trees and shrubs have not leaved out at the time when your bulbs are blooming which makes it also possible to grow them successfully under trees and shrubs.

### **Preparing the Soil**

Drainage is the most important thing for successful bulb growing! Soil conditions can be improved by turning the soil to loosen it, mixing in compost and sand or building raised beds. With good soil you are off to a good start.

### **Planting the Bulbs**

After you receive your bulbs plant them as soon as possible. To help you with your plantings you will also find a Botanus Planting Guide in your order and every individual package is also clearly labelled with important planting instructions.

As a rule of thumb plant your bulbs about three times their height deep as well as about three times their width apart. If you plant your bulbs in containers you can plant them closer together for a nice show effect. If you like your bulbs to multiply give them some extra space to expand. Plant your bulbs in groupings as opposed to single-file rows as this will give you the best nice show and will draw focus to the spot where they're planted.

### **Fertilizing**

Bulbs have everything inside them that they need to bloom and flourish. They don't really need fertilizer at the time of planting but will definitely benefit from it. You can find a good mixture of N-P-K in special bulb fertilizers or all purpose fertilizers. Make sure you follow the instructions on the package.

N= Nitrogen is for chlorophyll production for leaves and stems

P= Phosphorus is good for root development and flower setting

K= Potassium, also known as potash, is for the general growth of the plant as well as flower and fruit development

## **Watering**

Water your bulbs right after you've planted them and make sure you keep them moist especially during their growing time in the spring. Usually natural rain provides them with enough moisture until they sprout unless you live in a really dry area.

## **Maintaining your Bulbs**

What you do with your bulbs at the end of the blooming season will determine how successful your next season will be. Spring blooming bulbs need their foliage to die back naturally. After a great blooming season the bulb is exhausted and empty and needs to be filled up again. This 'die back' process allows the plant to store enough energy to produce flowers the following season.

We all know that it doesn't look particularly creative when your flower bed is covered with yellowed leaves, but there are a few things you can do to get through this period.

1. Plant some perennials around your bulbs that will cover up the leaves when they die back.
2. Choose companion plants that are beginning to bloom and leaf out just as your spring bulbs are beginning to die back as this will hide the bulb's yellowing leaves with new green, lush foliage and colourful flowers.
3. Plant your bulbs in bulb baskets. At the end of the blooming season you can take the basket out of the flower bed and put it behind the shed or in a place where the bulbs get their time to die back naturally. Meanwhile your new batch of summer blooming bulbs are taking off in the garden, wowing both you and your neighbours!
4. Plant your bulbs in containers. You can place the containers in your borders and flower beds and use them as decorative elements in your garden. After the flowers are gone just move the pots and replace them with some new containers that you've prepared with summer blooming varieties of plants and bulbs.

Now there is only one thing to say: "Give bulbs a try, you will not regret it!"

Of course, if there are any questions you might have we are always here for you and would love to help you create a beautiful garden!