

# PLANTING BULBS GUIDELINES

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SPECIFIC BULB DETAILS

Spring flowering bulbs are one of the most reliable and fuss-free ways of achieving a really colourful garden during spring. One of the best things about most spring flowering bulbs is that they're very easy to grow. Simply plant them in the ground or containers in the autumn and wait for them to emerge a few months later!

## How to Plant Bulbs

Bulbs usually have a pointy end and a rounded end. The pointed end is where the flower stalk grows from, and the rounded end produces roots. Some roots will be visible on the rounded ends of the bulbs when they arrive. A general rule for planting bulbs is that they should be planted at around 2-3 times their own depth. Some bulbs are bigger than others, meaning that larger bulbs will be planted deeper than smaller bulbs. This means that you can choose combinations of large and small bulbs to plant together in 'layers' either in containers or the ground.

## Heavier Soils

If you have particularly heavy soil, it's sometimes worth adding a bit of sand or grit to your planting holes to help with drainage and prevent the bulb from rotting.

### SAFETY NOTE:

*Remember that all bulbs can be harmful, if consumed*

## Planting Combinations

If planting combinations of bulbs, besides choosing which colours look good together, it's also worth checking the flowering times and flower heights to ensure you get a great effect.

## Ongoing Care

Most bulbs are low maintenance and will happily look after themselves. Once their flowers have faded it's a good idea to dead-head them to prevent seed heads from forming. By dead-heading, the bulb saves its energy for next year's flowers instead of putting it into the seed-forming process. Some people like to cut the foliage off after flowering, however it should be left intact for at least 6-8 weeks to allow it to continue photosynthesising and putting energy back down to the bulb to enable them to re-grow next year. For best results leave the foliage intact until it's brown.

BULB TYPE	PLANTING DEPTH	PLANTING DISTANCE	PLANTING POSITION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<b>ALIU</b>	2-3 times depth of bulb	25-30 cm	Full Sun	Flowers late spring/early summer. Tall varieties sometimes require support.
<b>DAFFODIL/ NARCISSUS</b>	2-3 times depth of bulb	15-20 cm	Full Sun, Partial Shade	typical-looking bulbs with a papery skin and a pointed top.
<b>CROCUS</b>	2-3 times depth of bulb	10-15 cm	Full Sun, Partial Shade	Perfect for growing through grass as well as in patio containers.
<b>TULIP</b>	2-3 times depth of bulb	15-20 cm	Full Sun	Usually bulbs are large with a pointy top side and roots underneath.
<b>ANEMONE</b>	5-10 cm	5-10 cm	Full Sun, Partial Shade, Shade	Top isn't always obvious so can be planted on their side if unsure.
<b>CHIONODOXA</b>	5 cm	5-10 cm	Full Sun, Partial Shade, Shade	Small round bulbs with a slightly pointed top.
<b>CYCLAMEN</b>	2-3 cm	5-10 cm	Partial Shade, Shade	Plant shallowly with the top visible. Often corm has shoots at the top and roots
<b>ERANTHIS (Winter Aconite)</b>	2-3 cm	5-10 cm	Partial Shade, Shade	Top isn't always obvious so can be planted on their side if unsure.
<b>FRITILLARIA MELEAGRIS</b>	2-3 times depth of bulb	10-15 cm	Partial Shade, Shade	Small bulbs with a slightly pointed top. Ideal for woodland planting.
<b>SNOWDROP</b>	2-3 times depth of bulb	10-15 cm	Full Sun, Partial Shade, Shade	Plant bulbs in groups for a natural look. Grows well in beds and borders.
<b>BLUEBELL</b>	10-15 cm	10-15 cm	Partial Shade, Shade	Create a woodland effect by planting under trees and around shrubs.
<b>MUSCARI</b>	5-10 cm	5-10 cm	Partial Shade, Shade	Plant in groups for a big impact and natural look.
<b>RANUNCULUS</b>	5 cm	15-20 cm	Full Sun	Plant with the "claws" pointing downwards.
<b>COLCHICUM</b>	10 cm	10-15 cm	Full Sun	Flowers Sept-Oct, leaves to follow retained until mid-summer. Well drained soil.