

Fall is the time to plant spring blooming bulbs

- September – smaller, minor bulbs (scilla siberica, snowdrop, crocus, grape hyacinth, striped squill)
- October – larger bulbs (daffodil, hyacinth, allium, frittalaria, camassia)
- November – tulips

Basic growing requirements

- Loamy soil with good drainage, don't plant where water collects
- Slightly acidic to neutral pH 6.0 to 7.0
- Six to eight hours of sun per day during the blooming season
- Water deeply at planting, sparingly thereafter

Design hints and tips

- Plant bulbs where you can see them from inside the house, if possible
- Plant early-, mid-, and late-blooming daffodils, tulips, and alliums for a long season of blooming bulbs
- Plant larger bulbs in groups of 12 or more; if no room for 12, plant an odd number 5-7-9; plant smaller bulbs (like grape hyacinths) in groups of 24
- Choose a single-color theme or a coordinated combination
- Purchase bulb collections designed to bloom at various times and coordinate well

Planting instructions

1. Choose a mostly sunny, loamy, well-drained site
2. Dig one large planting hole or plant bulbs singly at proper depth 2 to 3 times bulb height
3. Cover with soil
4. Water deeply at planting time; do not fertilize, then let nature take its course
5. Mulch after the ground freezes; use evergreen boughs as additional protection

How many bulbs per square foot?

Tulip 5-7	Daffodil (large) 5-7	Daffodil (mini) 7-11	Allium Globemaster 1-2	Anenome 20-24	Crocus 8-9	Camassia 4
Siberian Squill 15-16	Early Snow Glory 20-24	Snow Drops 16-18	Fritillaria meleagris 10-11	Hyacinth 3-4	English Bluebell 5-6	Grape Hyacinth 14-15



Bloom timeline

Early Spring	Mid Spring	Late Spring
Winter Aconite Snowdrop Snow Crocus Miniature daffodils Striped Squill Dutch Crocus Early Snow Glories Anenome blanda Dwarf Iris Early Daffodils Early Tulips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emperor, Double Early, Single Early, Kaufmanniana, Greigii 	Hyacinth Siberian Squill Grape Hyacinth Mid-season Daffodils Mid-season Tulips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darwin hybrids, Triumph, Fringed, Lily Fritillaria meleagris Fritillaria imperialis Snowflakes Starflower	Late season Daffodils Late season Tulips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single late, Double late, Parrot, Viridiflora Wood Hyacinth English Bluebells Dutch Iris Camassia Lavender Mountain Lily Triplet Lilly Anenome coronia Allium (early, mid, and late blooming varieties start blooming in late spring)

Early-, mid-, and late-blooming daffodil varieties

Early Spring	Mid Spring	Late Spring
February Gold', 'Ice Follies', 'Tete-a-Tete', 'Little Gem', 'Peeping Tom', 'Sunny Side Up', 'Barrett Browning	'Jack Snipe', 'Fortissimo', 'Dutch Master', 'Fortune', 'Carlton', 'Golden Dawn', 'Minnow', 'Mt. Hood', 'Orangery', 'Sweetness'	'Salome', 'Sir Winston Churchill', 'Bridal Crown', 'Yellow Cheerfulness', 'Dick Wellband', 'Odoratus', 'Geranium'

Container planting

1. Any container will do – the bigger the better – fill with potting soil - must have drainage holes
2. Plant bulbs in Sept/Oct/Nov – according to bulb type
3. Planting depth can be shallower than if bulbs are planted in the ground
4. Slightly moisten potting soil before arranging bulbs in container
5. Cover bulbs with potting soil; lightly fertilize as potting soil does not contain nutrients
6. Water enough to settle the soil in the container
7. Leave container outdoors; move to unheated garage on December 1; water sparingly during winter
8. Move container to a sunny outdoor location on March 1; water and let nature handle the rest

Maintenance

- Don't water bulbs when they are blooming
- (Optional) lightly fertilize with a balanced fertilizer when foliage appears in spring to encourage bulb development for next year
- Deadhead spent blooms on daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths
- Let bulb foliage die back naturally; remove foliage only when it is completely brown

Sources of more information

- Rutgers Fact Sheet 1220 *Spring Flowering Bulbs* njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1220/
- *The Complete Book of Bulbs & Bulb Gardening* by Kathy Brown
- American Daffodil Society daffodilusa.org

Contact the Monmouth County Master Gardener Helpline

- We answer your gardening questions, identify insects, diagnose plant pests and diseases, , and sell soil test kits to mail to Rutgers Labs for full soil analysis
- Hours: Monday thru Friday 9 am-3:30 pm
- Email mgarden@co.monmouth.nj.us
- Address: Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Monmouth County Agriculture Building, 4000 Kozloski Rd, Freehold NJ 07728

