



Vogelvry bulbs & flowers

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Tulipa 'World Peace'

CULTURE NOTES FOR SPRING FLOWERING BULBS

ALLIUMS Alliums are easy to grow. Plant bulbs just below the surface in a sunny position in a well drained soil. Alliums may be dug and stored like onions after leaves die down.

ALSTROEMERIA Alstroemeria tubers require a moist, well drained soil and should be planted in a sunny or semi-shaded position with mulch added in warm climates to keep the root system cool. The tubers need to be planted as soon as possible after arrival and should never be allowed to dry out. Excellent cut flowers which grow to a height of 100 cm.



Allium Ampeloprasum

AMARYLLIS Belladonna Lilies Grow these in a moderately fertile, well- drained soil in full sun. Plant bulbs shallow with the neck just below the surface and water moderately during growing season. These need to be protected from severe frost. Keep bulbs dry while dormant in late summer. These bulbs are excellent for naturalising in the garden and require minimal care once established.

ANEMONES These are ideal for mass planting. The small bulbs may be soaked in cold water for 24 hours prior to planting 7-10 cm deep in mainly full sun. Easy to grow as a colourful 'filler' in any garden.

BRODIAE Queen Fabiola Plant 7 cm deep in full sun or partial shade. Easy to grow.

CHIONODOXA Glory in the Snow Plant 10 cm deep and 15 cm apart either in full sun or semi-shaded position. These bulbs do well under deciduous shrubs and trees and can be left in the ground to naturalize.

COLCHICUM Plant these just below the surface in full sun. See under Crocus sativus and Autumn Crocus.

CROCUS SATIVUS (Saffron Crocus) & AUTUMN FLOWERING CROCUS. Saffron Crocus prefer a cool to cold winter and warm to hot summer. Plant in March, 7-10 cm deep in a well drained, moderately fertilized soil in full sun. They can be left in the ground for several



Crocus Sativus
(Saffron Crocus)

years. It is recommended to divide them every 2-3 years. The corms need time to adapt to local conditions and will generally multiply rapidly. Do not irrigate during dormancy. Keep corms in a cool, dark, dry place until planting time.

CROCUS VERNUS (Dutch Crocus) & CROCUS SPECIES (Crocus Chrysanthus) May be used for naturalizing in gardens and rockeries, but prevent excessive irrigation during dormancy. Plant approx 8 cm deep and 10 cm apart in a well drained garden soil. Full sun preferred.



Crocus Vernus
'Vanguard'

ERYTHRONIUM Trout Lily This plant does best in a woodland setting perhaps together with Cyclamen and Scillas. Plant bulbs 10-12 cm deep in a moist, but well drained soil in a semi-shaded position. Added peat will enhance the moisture holding capacity of the soil. Bulbs should remain slightly damp during storage and before planting time or leave bulbs in the ground.

FREESIAS These corms grow to height of about 35 cm and should be planted about 5 cm deep and 10 cm apart in a well drained, but moist soil. They prefer a warm, sunny position and can be left in the ground for many years. These can be transplanted as soon as the foliage has died down. Freesias are sensitive to frost, so mulch with straw or similar to protect them. Alternatively the corms may be planted in pots.



FRITILLARIA MELEAGRIS (Snake's Head) & UVA VULPIS. The bulbs should be planted in full sun to partial shade immediately after bulbs have been received. These should be planted 12 cm deep and 5 cm apart in a moist sandy soil with added peat. The bulbs should be left in the ground to naturalize but are also suitable for pot culture.

Fritillaria
'Uva Vulpis'

GALANTHUS Original Snowdrop Plant these as soon as possible after arrival. These bulbs should be planted in the coldest part of the garden, preferably in a semi shaded position.

Galanthus nivalis & woronowii should be grown under deciduous trees where the plants receive only filtered sunlight. Bulbs planted in tubs and positioned under trees are also a good way of growing *G. nivalis*. A well drained soil is essential.

Galanthus elwesii can handle a little more warmth and sun and is, therefore, better suited to Australian conditions. All *Galanthus* bulbs can be left in the ground to naturalize.



Galanthus 'elwesii'

GLADIOLUS NANUS Miniature Gladioli These should be planted in the full sun approximately 10 cm deep and 10 cm apart in fertile, well drained soil. As these grow to 40-60 cm, they are suitable for pots, but ensure that pots are protected from severe cold weather. If planted in the garden, the corms can be left in the ground; however, in frost prone areas in particular, it is best to lift the corms when the leaves have died down or turn brown/yellow. Keep corms in a dry, cool place when storing during dormancy.

HYACINTHS Plant in April-May in well drained garden beds, 10 cm deep and 15 cm apart. The growing conditions are similar to that of tulips. See also under tulips and growing bulbs in pots and water.



IPHEION Spring Star Flower Plant these small bulbs 7- 10 cm deep in a well drained soil in full sun. Easy to grow.

IRIS *Iris hollandica* or Dutch Iris prefer a sunny position in a fertile well-drained garden soil (see under tulips). Plant bulbs about 10 cm deep and 10 cm apart in the months of April and May. These bulbs are best planted in clumps. After flowering, the dead flowers or seed pods should be removed to promote bulb growth.

*Hyacinth
'Purple Star'*

IRIS RETICULATA These are excellent for use in rockeries and pot culture. The bulbs should be planted about 10 cm deep and 5 cm apart in a sunny or semi-shaded position and can be left in the ground to naturalize.

IXIAS African Corn Lily Plant 7-10 cm deep in a sandy, well drained soil in full sun. They prefer a sheltered position in cold regions as frost can do some damage to leaf growth.

LEUCOJUM Grow in moderately fertile, well drained soil in full sun. Leave in the ground to naturalize. See also Narcissus.

MUSCARI Easy to grow bulbs and excellent for naturalizing mainly in full sun. Plant 10cm deep. A well drained, garden soil is required. Both Muscari macrocarpum & ambrosiacum need warm summers to flower well and prefer a drier soil.

NARCISSUS Daffodils These bulbs are very hardy, easy to grow and can be left in the ground for many years to naturalize. Plant the bulbs in a sunny position during April-May, preferably in clumps, 10 cm deep and 15 cm apart. Most varieties are suitable to naturalize in grassy areas. As with all bulbs do not cut or mow off leaves until leaves are yellow and dying off.

PUSCHKINNIA see Chionodoxa

RANUNCULUS Easy to grow in a light, slightly sandy soil in full sun or partial shade. The small spider type bulbs may be soaked in cold water for 3-4 hours prior to planting. Plant 7-10 cm deep. These are a good colourful 'filler' bulb to plant among Tulips and Daffodils.



Iris Reticulata
'Alida'



Narcissus
'Hawera'

SCILLA Grow in a well drained soil in full sun or dappled light. Plant about 10cm deep. Excellent for ‘massing’ and to naturalize in the garden. Easy to grow.

SPARAXIS Suitable for naturalizing in the garden in regions with a mild winter. See under Ixias.

TULIPS Store tulip bulbs in a cool, dry, dark and well-ventilated place until cooling or planting time. In March, the bulbs may be pre-cooled in the fridge for 6 weeks or more, until planting time in April/ May. Tulips require a well drained soil in a sunny position in the colder regions of Australia, while in the warmer parts a semi-shaded position is best. Clumps of one variety will look best. Plant the bulbs in May in well drained soil or built up bed 10 cm deep and 15 cm apart. Work in plenty of well decayed manure, compost or blood and bone, while in acidic soils a little lime or dolomite should be added a few weeks before planting. Spray with a fungicide to prevent fungus disease and use an insecticide to prevent the occurrence of bulb aphids. Tulip bulbs should be dug when leaves become yellow and start to die off. The bulbs can then be dried, peeled and stored (at room temperature) until cooling or planting time.

Rockery and Specie Tulips do not need refrigeration and can be left in the ground for many years provided that no excessive irrigation takes place during the dormancy period.

Tulipa
'Jan Reus'



GROWING BULBS IN POTS

Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus and Iris reticulata are excellent for use in pot culture and here are some hints to ensure a magnificent display. A 12 cm pot is the minimum pot size for Crocus and Iris Reticulata while tulips require a 15 cm pot or larger. Make sure the pots have good drainage holes. Big pots and tubs are even better and different varieties may be kept apart in clumps. Planting tulips in window boxes is an attractive way to add colour to the house, garden or balcony. However, it is important to choose the right variety for a window box. Varieties that are suitable are the shorter varieties, especially the so-called potting tulips, like the Early and Triumph tulips. For the best results, place pots of tulips in window boxes and cover the pots with soil or straw rather than planting the tulips directly in the window box. This method provides the opportunity to place other potted tulips or plants in the box when the tulips finish flowering. Pots taken out can be cared for elsewhere.

SOIL: A good potting soil will be available from your nursery. If you would like to make your own potting mix, it is recommended to use one part composted pine bark, one part coarse river sand and one part peat with a little lime and blood and bone.

AFTER PLANTING: Put pots in a cool dark place such as under the house or similar. To ensure darkness, pots can be covered with newspaper or straw. The best way is to put the pots in a well drained position in the garden and to cover the pots with soil or straw for approx. 8 weeks. When the shoots are about 5-6 cm high, the pots can be moved to a warmer semi-shaded place. When the flowers have produced a good flower bud, the pots can be put inside for flowers to bloom. Always place the pot in a cool position and water regularly.



Tulipa "Albert Heijn", Tulipa 'Sweetheart',
Narcissus 'Las Vegas'

AFTER FLOWERING: Move pots outside to a semi-shaded position and cut off the dead flowers. Keep soil moist until the foliage has died down. Bulbs can then be removed and should be planted out in the garden the following season.

GROWING BULBS IN WATER Hyacinths and Crocus on Glass: In late April/beginning of May, fill the glass with water so that the water does not touch the bottom of the bulb/corm, and then place the glass in a dark, cool to cold place, such as a cellar or similar (the fridge is a must for Crocus). When the shoot is about 4/5cm high (after approx. 10 weeks) and the glass is filled with roots, it can be placed in a cool position in the living room. Always maintain the water level in the glass. In warmer regions of Australia, the Hyacinths may be pre-cooled in the fridge.

GENERAL COMMENT: A good, well drained, moderately fertilized soil in full sun should accommodate most if not all Spring Flowering Bulbs with the exception of some bulb species, which prefer a semi shaded or shaded position. The use of artificial fertilizers should always be limited and should never be over-used. If we imitate the natural conditions under which individual bulb species and indeed all plants grow, we make an important step to successful gardening.

Happy Gardening!

Tulipa
'Rosie Delight'

