

## PLANTING

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Plant bulbs as soon as possible. They won't last until the following season.

Check the chart for planting depth. This matters. Too shallow and bulbs may be damaged by bad weather or just flop over when they're grown. Too deep and they flower late, not at all or just die.

In pots use a decent potting compost. In open ground, improve the soil by weeding it, and forking it over with some well-rotted compost or manure.

1. Scatter bulbs randomly where you want them planted, dig holes and plant them where they fall. If you're not sure which bit is the top of the bulb (usually pointed), plant it on its side and it will be fine...
2. Fill planting holes with soil and a light layer of mulch.
3. Water newly planted bulbs well to settle the soil around them and protect from vermin if necessary, by laying chicken wire over the planting area.

## MAKE A BULB LASAGNE

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A bulb lasagne is a pot of bulbs planted in layers. Here's a sample recipe - a 30cm (12") deep pot is best but remove layers if it is shallower:

1. 5 - 10cms (2-4") of compost potting soil leaving 20 - 25cms (8-10") of pot empty
2. A layer of late spring flowerers such as late daffs or tulips
3. Add 5 - 7cms (2-3") compost
4. Maybe a layer of hyacinths or earlier tulips. Aim for March April flowers
5. Add another 5 - 7cms (2-3") compost
6. A layer of early flowering bulbs such as snowdrops and/or crocus.
7. Cover with 5 - 7cms (2-3") compost
8. Water well and enjoy

## AFTER-CARE AND DIGGING UP BULBS

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Unless you want them to seed (snowdrops, crocuses, bluebells) deadhead bulbs as soon as flowering is over. Do not cut the leaves for at least 8 weeks after flowering and preferably until they have wilted - the bulbs are fattening up for next year.

You can leave most spring flowering bulbs in the ground year to year, just lifting and separating overcrowded clumps.

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GUIDE

## HOW TO PLANT BULBS

### WHERE?

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All bulbs prefer decent soil. They demand good drainage as they rot in wet ground. Check the chart (on the next page) to see if they are sun or shade lovers and choose a site accordingly. Remember that many bulbs are in growth and flower in winter and early spring and so may get sufficient light if grown under deciduous trees. Think bluebell woods.

### HAVE A PLAN

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Bulbs fit into formal and informal plantings and naturalise readily. They multiply annually giving you a lifetime of pleasure from a single planting.

### Here are a few "planning thoughts":

- Bulbs are often brightly coloured (to attract pollinators when there are not many about). Make sure they will fit in where they are planted.
- Pots and bulbs were made to go together. Plant your pots in autumn, tuck them away behind a shed until they are in bud and bring them out for a display several weeks long. Then hide them again when they are over. You can plan pots to flower in succession and have a show from late January until the middle of May. Ignore recommended spacings and place so they are almost touching one another. They need replanting annually for the best show.
- Some bulbs are tall, and some are... not. Plant accordingly.
- Not all bulbs flower at the same time. Choose varieties that go together but that also give you a show for as long as possible.
- Let foliage die down naturally. You won't even notice if you use companion plants to hide it and continue the show when your bulbs are resting. A completely non-comprehensive list might include catmint, cranesbill, daylilies, hostas, hellebores, penstemon, peonies, phlox, sedum etc etc

Below is the complete list of our early and late flowering bulbs. Bulbs thrive in many types of soil and light conditions and need planting at different depths. Please see our handy guide below for best possible results.



VARIETY	SUN	SEMI-SHADE	SHADE	MOIST	SPACING	DEPTH
Allium	✓	✓		✓	10cm	10cm
Anemones	✓	✓	✓		5cm	5 - 8cm
Bluebells		✓	✓		5cm	5 - 8cm
Crocus	✓	✓		✓	5cm	8-10cm
Cyclamen		✓	✓		8-15cm	3cm
Daffodil (Narcissus)	✓	✓		✓	15cm	10 - 20cm
Dwarf Daffodil (Narcissus)	✓	✓		✓	8cm	10 - 15cm
Fritillaria		✓	✓	✓	5cm	10 - 15cm
Hyacinths	✓	✓		✓	10 - 15cm	10cm
Iris Reticulata	✓	✓		✓	5cm	5 - 10cm
Muscari	✓	✓			5cm	10cm
Snowdrops		✓	✓	✓	5cm	8-10cm
Tulips	✓	✓		✓	10cm	10 - 15cm



We want your bulbs to reach you in perfect condition, so please unpack them and plant them as soon as they arrive. Everything you buy is covered by our no-quibble Guarantee, so please let us know as soon as possible if you have any problems. We also offer bulbs in the green, which are available to pre-order from January/February, so remember to visit our website after the new year. [www.ashridgetrees.co.uk](http://www.ashridgetrees.co.uk)