

Bulbs Selection

PREPARED BY



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Introduction

This report contains advice on how to increase interest and variety in different areas of the garden, through the addition of bulbs. Bulbs cover a range of plants with some kind of underground storage that help them survive over their dormant season and include true bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes.

Bulb selection and purchase

The selection of bulbs in the report has taken into account:

- Type of site in which they are to be grown, aspect and soil
- Desired colour scheme with preference for purple, yellow and white
- Flowering time, aiming for a display that covers every season of the year

Bulbs can be purchased from a garden centre or via mail order from bulb- growing nurseries.

- From a garden centre buy from cultivated sources, soon after they have been delivered
- Select firm, healthy, heavy, round bulbs without soft spots, patches, mould or starting to shoot
- From catalogue order well in advance of the planting date, and plant as soon as they arrive

Bulb planting

Bulbs need well drained, rich, fertile soil, therefore, we recommend that:

- Coarse sand or grit are added to improve drainage
- Well-rotted manure or garden compost is incorporated at least a month before planting

Plant in groups so they will look more natural, ensuring that:

- Depth is 2-3 times the bulb's diameter, separation is 2-3 bulbs widths apart, except for tulips that need to be 20-30 cm below soil surface
- They are planted with the pointed part up
- In dry conditions water after planting

Bulb maintenance and aftercare

- Keep soil moist but not soggy as bulbs grow, watering in dry spells
- Feed plants with fertilizer as flowers are finishing. For granular use potassium sulphate or tomato or rose feed. For liquid, feed 2 times 10 days to 3 weeks apart.
- Leave foliage for at least 6 weeks after flowering, then cut off dead flower stems and brown leaves
- Lift and divide bulbs only when crowded and flower numbers or quality drop off, which can vary between 2 and 5 years.
- If affected by disease, destroy damaged areas and do not replant damaged bulbs

Mixed Border

- Bulbs should brighten up the border through eye catching colours and flower forms
- Opportunity for tall, mid height and low growing bulbs
- Mix with herbaceous and shrubs and plant bulbs in their gaps so when bulb foliage dies back it can be hidden by emerging perennial foliage

Tulipa 'Golden Apeldoorn'



Dutchbulbs.com images

Height:

To 60cm

Season:

Spring

Planting requirements & after care:

- Plant in late autumn/early winter
- In full sun
- 15-20cm deep, 10-20cm apart
- Add lime to acid soils
- Apply liquid fertilizer as soon as bulbs appear and after flowers have faded
- Water in dry spells, once buds appear
- Do not plant in the same bed year after year

Allium 'Purple Sensation'



American meadows image

Height:

To 80cm

Season:

Late spring, summer

Planting requirements & after care:

- Plant in early to mid autumn
- In full sun
- Cover with soil 3 times height of bulb
- Space 15-30cm apart
- Add lime to acid soils
- Apply liquid fertilizer as buds form
- Water in dry spells
- Don't water after flowering
- Can be used for cutting

Patio

- Containers outside are ideal for tender bulbs, as they can be moved indoors in frost weather
- Opportunity for fragrant bulbs that can be enjoyed by patio users
- Good option for bulbs which are invasive on the ground

Nerine bowdenii f. alba



Riverside bulbs image

Height:

To 60cm

Season:

Autumn, scented

Planting requirements & after care:

- Plant in mid-spring or late summer, in full sun
- With neck of bulb at or just below soil level in container
- Crock base of container for good drainage
- Survives winter cold with protection from sunny, warm wall
- Water in growth, lay mulch when dormant
- Good for cutting

Dahlia 'Yellow Hammer'



Pinterest image

Height:

To 60cm

Season:

Late summer, tender

Planting requirements & after care:

- Plant tubers in spring, in full sun
- 5cm deep
- Use loam-based compost
- Crock base of container for good drainage
- Water in dry spells
- Feed with fertilizer once flowering begins
- Protect from frost


Woodland

- Woodland bulbs need to be suitable for shade
- Must flower early to late spring to benefit from sunlight filtering through the bare branches of deciduous trees
- Should be chosen from naturally occurring woodland species.

Anemone blanda 'Atrocaerulea'

 <p>anemone blanda atrocaerulea 4-APR-2004 © Mark Wilcox</p> <p>Mark Wilcox image</p>	<p>Height:</p> <p>To 15cm</p>
	<p>Season:</p> <p>Early spring</p>
	<p>Planting requirements & after care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant tubers or rhizomes in autumn - 5-7.5cm deep, 10cm apart - Soak tubers or rhizomes overnight before planting them with claws upwards - Throw a handful onto the ground and plant where they land for an organic grouping - Mulch soil with bark chips or leafmould after planting

Eranthis hyemalis

 <p>RHS Image</p>	<p>Height:</p> <p>To 10cm</p>
	<p>Season:</p> <p>Early Spring</p>
	<p>Planting requirements & after care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant tubers in Autumn - 2.5-5cm deep, 7.5-10cm apart - Keep soil moist in spring and summer - Throw a handful onto the ground and plant where they land for an organic grouping - Can be invasive

Rock Garden

- Bulbs should be suitable for dry and sunny conditions, as this is an open, SW facing slope
- Chose from small, hardy bulbs so they can survive temperature extremes by hugging to the ground
- Make garden look natural as a mountainous or rocky habitat

Crocus medius



Scottish rock garden club image

Height:

To 8cm

Season:

Autumn

Planting requirements & after care:

- Plant corms in July
- 7.5cm deep, 10cm apart
- Apply balanced fertilizer after flowering in poor soil
- Water after planting and in dry conditions
- Cover with wire netting if birds damage flowers

Narcissus cantabricus



Alpine garden society image

Height:

To 20cm

Season:

Winter

Planting requirements & after care:

- Plant bulbs in late summer, autumn
- Plant so that nose is covered to twice the height of bulb
- Feed with fertilizer in early spring
- Water in dry spells
- Can be used for cutting

Summary

Garden Area	Flowering season/ Planting time (P)											
	Winter			Spring			Summer			Autumn		
	Early	Mid	Late	Early	Mid	Late	Early	Mid	Late	Early	Mid	Late
Mixed Border												
<i>Tulipa</i> 'Golden Apeldoorn'	(P)											(P)
<i>Allium</i> 'Purple Sensation'											(P)	(P)
Patio												
<i>Nerine bowdenii</i> f. <i>alba</i>		(P)						(P)				
<i>Dahlia</i> 'Yellow Hammer'					(P)	(P)						
Woodland												
<i>Anemone blanda</i> 'Atrocaerulea'											(P)	(P)
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>											(P)	
Rock garden												
<i>Crocus medius</i>											(P)	(P)
<i>Narcissus cantabricus</i>										(P)	(P)	(P)