

## FALL FLOWER

# BULB PLANTING

FALL PLANTING IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS CREATING A MESMERIZING SPRING GARDEN



### WHEN YOU GET THE BULBS

Plant your new dormant bulbs in the garden as soon as you receive them in the fall. If you need to delay planting, open the bags and set the bulbs out in a cool, airy spot (40°-60°F, 4°-16°C). Discard any bulbs with visible mold, soft spots, or damage.

### WHERE TO PLANT THEM

Most flower bulbs do best in a sunny spot with at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight in the spring. They do best in soil that drains water easily. A sandy loam rich in organic matter is ideal. That said, many bulbs are tolerant of less-than-perfect conditions.

### METHODS FOR PLANTING

To plant bulbs, you can either dig individual holes or dig a wide planting basin. Individual holes can be done with a handheld trowel or electric drill fitted with a bulb planting auger. Digging a wide basin works best for large geometric planting layouts.

### SOIL PREP BEFORE PLANTING

Remove any weeds and debris. Loosen the soil down to about 12"-14" deep. For optimal flower bulb growth, work a 2" layer of organic material (yard waste compost, composted manure) into the soil. You can also mix in bulb fertilizer.

### PLANTING LAYOUT PLAN

Use a trowel or garden markers to mark out the area before planting. If you have lots of bulbs, space them approximately 2-4 times their width apart. Alternatively, you can space bulbs more widely apart to cover a larger area at a lower plant density.

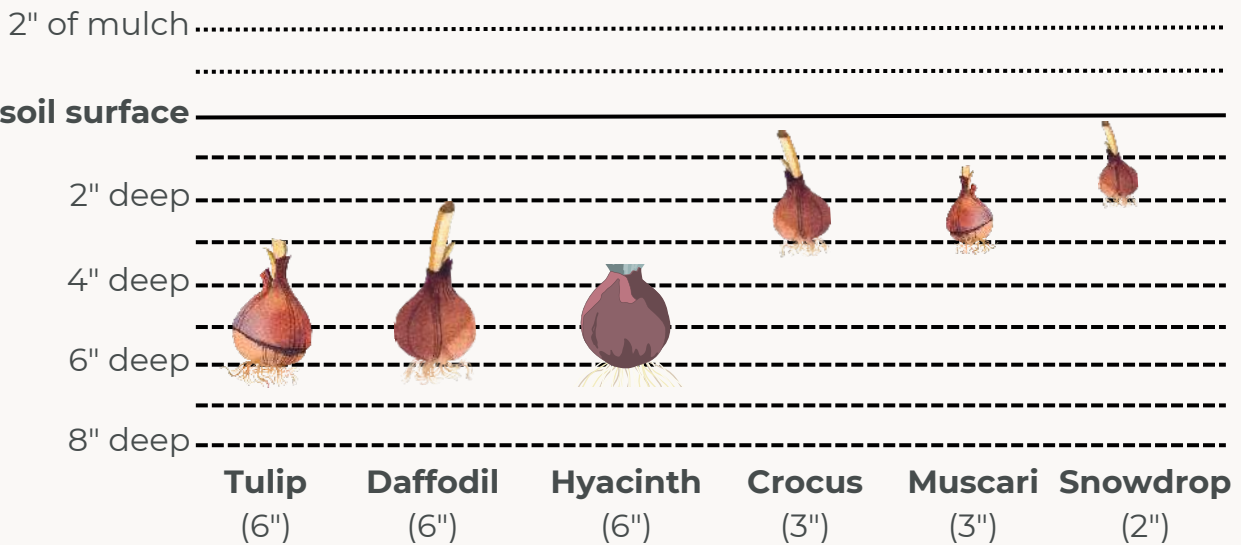
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## PLANTING DEPTH GUIDE

In general, plant bulbs at a depth of about 2-3 times their height. Bulbs can be planted shallowly in heavy clay soil and more deeply in light sandy soil/very dry climates. Follow specific instructions on the packaging for specialty varieties.

Here are the minimum planting depths of common fall-planted flower bulbs. This depth is measured from the surface of the garden soil (not the surface of organic mulch laid over the soil).



## HOW TO PLANT BULBS

Ensure the bulb's pointed end faces upwards towards the sky, as this is where the shoot will emerge. The flatter end on the bottom is where the roots will grow. Backfill carefully with soil. Even small bulbs should have an inch or two of soil above them.

## CARE AFTER PLANTING

Water the area thoroughly after planting to help settle the soil and initiate root growth. You can then add organic mulch like composted yard trimmings on top of the soil. This will help suppress weeds, maintain soil moisture, and provide insulation.