



## PLANTING BULBS



Tucking flower bulbs into the ground in autumn creates a magical display come springtime! Tulips, daffodils, crocuses, and even the exotic-looking checkered fritillaria are all a cinch to plant and require very little care once established. The best part is, the effort of planting is long forgotten when the first spring flowers begin to appear!

### SUPPLIES

- \* Assorted fall bulbs
- \* Trowel
- \* Compost (1 trowelful per bulb; optional)
- \* Filled watering can

**TIME:** under 30 minutes

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a sunny, dry place to plant your bulbs. Avoid areas that are in deep shade or frequently muddy. Choose an out-of-the-way location where they won't be trampled by pets or people.
2. Dig down 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 cm), loosening the soil and removing rocks and roots. (Planting depth varies by species, so follow any planting instructions that came with your bulbs or follow the rule of thumb to plant any bulb twice as deep as the bulb is tall.)
3. If using, add a scoop of compost to each hole before planting your bulbs.
4. Place your bulbs at the proper depth, with the wider, rougher root end facing down and the narrower, pointed end facing up.
5. Cover with soil and gently tamp it down.
6. If using, add another scoop of compost on top to provide needed nutrients to the bulbs.
7. Water well on planting day and then leave your bulbs to rest until spring. When your flowers push up and bloom, harvest as many as you'd like or leave them in the garden for a lasting show. When the flowers die back, don't immediately cut away the leaves, as they feed the roots and promote blooms for years to come.

### TIP

Plant bulbs when daytime temperatures are consistently between 40°F and 50°F (4.4°C to 10°C), normally in early to mid-autumn. In climates that experience freezing winter temperatures, plant your bulbs 1½ to 2 months before the ground freezes for best results. (If you live in a warmer climate, bulbs can be planted at the very end of fall, as late as December in the Northern Hemisphere and June in the Southern.)

### NOTE

*If you don't have a yard of your own, ask a friend or neighbor if you can plant bulbs at their house to enjoy in the springtime. When the flowers bloom, you both can share the blossoms for bouquets in your homes.*

### NATURE NOTES

**Did you know?** A single bulb can become a whole bouquet, given enough time and patience. Bulbs like tulips, crocuses, and daffodils often spread, resulting in more blooms with each passing year. Expect one flower per bulb the first year, but some will double (then triple, then possibly even more) beginning with year two.