



# Information Sheets

## HOW TO PLANT AN OUT DOOR BULB POT OF COLOUR

The aim here is to have continuity so that several bulbs may come into flower together, overlapping with such plants as pansies, primroses or winter heather. And then as those bulbs begin to fade, new varieties begin to emerge to carry on the spring flower show.

### FIRST

Choose a fairly large out door container. Make sure you put 3-4" of gravel in the bottom for good drainage, and then fill ½ way with a planter box mix. Sprinkle some bulb food on top of the soil and work it in. You will be planting the bulbs in layers according to their bulb size. Always remember that bulbs should be planted 2½ times their depth down into the soil, so the larger bulbs will be planted at the deepest layer. Then add more soil and bulb food; place your next biggest bulbs and so on until the pot is full to the top. You can now over plant with some of the fall flowers like pansies etc.

Now you are going to have to take note of the bulbs bloom times as well as the height so that the flowers look good when they are in full bloom.

You are going to want some that bloom early, like crocus or snowdrops. These are best closer to the edge of the pot so they can be seen if there are other plants in the center of the pot. To go with these early bloomers you may want to add some early blooming tulips or narcissus to come up in the center of the pot at the same time. Next you will want to choose some middle and late spring bulbs.

Always plant all the bulbs at their right depth according to their size, whether they are early, mid or late season bloomers. Mix and match your bulbs try different combinations, it can be fun to experiment.

Other things you may want to try is planting your bulbs to match or contrast with your pot. An all white planting is quite rich looking especially if planted in a decorative black or dark blue pot.

To extend your flower display even more, plant a few bulbs in a separate pot and bury them in the shady part of the garden to slow them down and then transplant them into your display pot when all else have expired.

One other tip, stay away from tall varieties of bulbs, as they can be blown over and look floppy. Also remember the height of the plants you are planting on top of your bulbs so to make sure the bulbs you choose flower above them or they will be lost in the foliage.

Now the only other things you need to do is water occasionally and then sit back and await the spring display of colour.