



Information Sheets

Themed Bulb Gardening

There is nothing quite as beautiful as seeing your spring flowering bulbs burst into colour after a long, cold rainy winter. You can add beauty, colour and interest anywhere in your landscape with a little time, planning and effort. Whether you prefer your bulbs naturalized into the landscape, clustered in groups, or perhaps planted in colour groupings, bulbs can brighten your garden.

Spring flowering bulbs are available in such a variety of colours and blooming times, that you can treat yourself to continuous colour and changing colour schemes from late winter to early summer. If you would like to create a flower show, you will need to plan your plant heights and blooming times. Generally the earliest flowers which open will be the Crocus and Snowdrops, followed by Daffodils and Tulips. Dutch Iris and Spanish Bluebells will bloom later. Within each of these categories, you will find a multitude of hybrids, which bloom at different times. Use these to spread out the bloom time for each group, and you will enjoy them for a longer period. You can draw an actual map to plan your plantings, so you will remember what, when and where you will have bulbs. Be sure to note heights, and plant low-growing bulbs in front of taller ones. Contrasting colours make a great display, or you may want to use many hues of the same colour. White bulbs will brighten the plainest of garden areas.

The best and most popular method is that of massed garden plantings, where several groupings (of at least 5 bulbs) are planted together. Several bulbs are ideal for naturalizing. Crocus, Iris Reticulata, Grape Hyacinth, Daffodils and Bluebells can be grown right in the lawn. Choose an area where lawn can be left unmowed until foliage has matured. Hillsides and wooded areas are great spots for this. If you grab a handful of bulbs and scatter them, where they fall is where you plant them. Remove a small section of sod, or with a steel bar, punch a hole in through the sod. Loosen soil and add about a tablespoon of bulb food, and a mixture of sand/peat moss and set bulbs into place. Cover with soil and sod. These bulbs can be left undisturbed for many years.

There is no right or wrong way to theme your bulb display as the possibilities and results are limited only by the creativity that you use when planning your garden. There are the obvious themes based on colours, which can range from white to black with every colour imaginable in-between. The only consideration here is that one should try to maintain the display over an extended period in the spring, which means planting bulbs, which offer a varied flowering time. When choosing colour as a theme one may also wish to accent the bulb plantings with shrubs and plants which have either offsetting colours or textures. One of the considerations to look for is to make sure that the displays are adequately large enough to show properly. Colour choice is also important in regard to the area of the yard in which one may wish to plant, with those areas farther away from the house having the brightest most vibrant colour, to catch ones eye, while those areas closer the home may have a softer look using more pastel colours which show very nicely up close. Like wise those darker areas of ones yard will show much better with bright whites and yellows while the brighter well lit areas will show

nicely with blues and purple and darker colours. The ideal colour bulb themes should highlight not only their own area but also those areas in the yard on which they border.

Other themes in ones flowerbeds can be Rock garden Bulbs, Naturalizing bulbs, Novelty tulips or narcissi, spring flowering bulbs suitable for cutting, fragrant bulbs, or bulbs planted specifically for their blooming period. Other themed possibilities can include groupings of many varieties of the same type of flower bulb such as Alliums, Muscarrii, Frittilaria, Scillia, Anemones, Tulips, Crocus, Hyacinths and Narcissi.

When purchasing flower bulbs one must be careful to look at all of the information found on the boxes and package in which the bulbs are sold. Most reputable companies will list the blooming time (early, midseason or late), height, shade or sun tolerance but also special attributes of those particular bulbs such as fragrance, naturalizing, cut flowers, rock gardens or forcing. Take your time when choosing your bulbs to make sure that the colours, heights and flowering times are appropriate for the theme you are choosing.

Bulb Collections

Novelty Tulips

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|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| *Burgundy Lace | *Florissa Frills | *Fancy Frills |
| *Blue Heron | *Burgundy Lace | *Weber's Parrot |
| *Texas Gold | *Mona Lisa | *Queen of Sheba |
| *Marilyn | | |

Naturalizing Tulips

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|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| *Turkestanica | *Little Beauty | *Lilac Wonder |
| *Saxatillis | *Unicum | *Dasystemon Tarda |
| *Chrysantha | *Little Princess | *Pulchella Eastern Star |
| *Pulchella Violacea | *Uremiensis | *Batalini Bright Cream |

Fragrant Narcissi

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|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| *Minnow | *Hawera | *Scarlet Gem |
| *Geranium | *Topolino | *Cheerfulness |
| *Thalia | *Quail | *Bell Song |
| *Yellow Cheerfulness | *Golden Bells | |

Irises

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| *Joyce – Dwarf Iris | *Harmony-Dwarf Iris | *Danfordia-Dwarf Iris |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

*Cantab - Dwarf Iris
*Bucharica - Dwarf Iris
*Purple Sensation

*Natasha - Dwarf Iris
*Imperator
*Golden Harvest

*Tuberosa - Dwarf Iris
*Frans Hals
*Angel Wings

A Season of Flowers

*Crocus – Zwanenburg Bronze
*Iris – J. S. Dyt
*Single Early Tulip – Charles
*Novetly Narcisii – Rosy Cloud
*Galanthus Elwesii

*Crocus – Ruby Giant
*Bouquet Tulip- Modern Style
*Triumph Tulip – Negrita
*Dwarf Narcisii – Itzim
*Single Snow Drops

*Chionodoxa –Pink Giant
*Tritelia –Wisely Blue

Frittilarias

*Lutea Maxima
*Imperilis Rubra
*Uva Vulips

*Persica
*Michailowsky

*Melagris Alba
*Melagris

Alliums

*Ostrowskianum
*Purple Sensation
*Azureum
*Christophii

*Neapolitanum
*Unifolium
*Bulgaricum
*Schubertii

*Moly Luteum
*Karataviense
*Ivory Queen

Novelty Narcissus

*Candicalatis
*Flower Drift
*Actea
*Orangerie

*Spellbinder
*Modern Art
*Marie Jose
*Tahiti

*Rip Van Winkle
*Salome
*Little Witch
*White Lion

Best Of The Best Fragrant Bulbs

*Narcissus – Bridal Crown
*Campanulata – Mixed
*Hyacinths – Hollyhocks

*Campanulata – Blue Bells
*Tulips – Angelique
*Eranthis

*Campanulata – Pink
*Tulip – Apricot Beauty
*Hyacinths – Peter Stuyvesant

*Hyacinth – Carnegie

*Hyacinth – Anne Marie

White Flowering Bulbs

Green Flowering Bulbs