

Garden Talk

"Where People who Love to Garden, Love to Shop!"TM

Bulbs made Majestic

4 Steps to Great bulbs

Step 1 (Soil Formula) For every 50 sq.ft of flower bed add 4 bags "Watters Mulch", 1 lb. "Super Phosphate", 1

lb. "All Purpose Plant Food". Turn the mixture into the soil to one shovels depth.

Step 2 - Place bulb in hole. Growing tip should face up. If you can't identify the growing tip, place bulb on its side and it will adjust on its own. Check to be sure there are no air pockets beneath bulbs then cover with soil.

Growers Tip - After planting spread a layer of Watters "Soil Activator" over the entire planting area. This will ensure deeper roots, a more vibrant bulb and larger flowers.

Step 3 - Water thoroughly and deeply to settle the soil after planting. Water requirements for newly planted bulbs vary considerably. A general rule is deep water every 2 weeks.

Step 4 - Add a layer of "Shredded Bark" to reduce evaporation of soil moisture, moderate temperatures and deter weeds.



Items Needed: Watters Mulch Super Phosphate Soil Activator Shredded Bark All Purpose Plant Food

Soil Preparation - It is important the soil drains. Most bulbs rot when subjected to soggy soil. A heavy clay soil tends to drain slowly, but improved by turning a 2-3 inch layer of Watters Mulch into the soil. **Important** - never use manure, it tends to be too hot and contains bacteria that cause bulbs to rot.

Add "Super Phosphate" & "All Purpose Plant Food" at the same time mulch is being turned into the soil. Super phosphate takes a long time to move downward to the root zone, so it's best turned into the soil where the roots will grow. Rake smooth and you are ready to plant.

Planting - Bulbs are planted two different ways. The first is used for large beds. Remove the soil to an even

depth. Bulbs can now be placed as desired and covered with the proper amount of soil. This assures bulbs are planted at the same depth. They will bloom at exactly the same time with stems of equal length.

A second method is to dig individual holes for each bulb with a trowel or bulb planter. For natural looking plantings, toss the bulbs on the ground and plant them where they fall. This avoids even, unnatural spacing. The biggest concen-

tration of bulbs should be at the center of a group. This mimics the appearance of bulbs in nature.

The general rule is to plant a bulb three times deeper than the actual bulb size. Bulbs in light, sandy soil should be planted a little deeper, and a little shallower in heavy clay soils.

After planting spread a layer of "Soil Activator" over the entire bed and water deeply. This all natural product promotes deeper roots, reduces water use and brings the color out of each flower. Cover the bed with a 2-3 inch layer of "Shredded Bark" to reduce evaporation of soil moisture, moderate temperatures and deter weeds.



Many bulbs are bitter to the taste and critters will not eat them. Animals like gophers, pack rat, squirrel, and javelina will not eat daffodil, narcissus and iris. Another trick is to cover the bed with chicken wire to keep vermin from eating more desirable bulbs. Another trick is to plant in growers pots and plant the pot directly in the ground.

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