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# Planting spring bulbs

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# Planting spring bulbs

You can plant spring bulbs now and watch them grow over the winter. It is a reminder that however bad the winter is, the spring will come eventually.

It can be a source of hope, for the good times that will come and a memory of all the colour and vibrancy of past springs.



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## **Bulbs** by Patience Strong

I've put my bulbs in coloured bowls and hidden them away -  
Inside my cupboard, where they cannot see the light of day -  
I've put them in the soft black mould as cosy as can be -  
And in the quiet darkness they will work their mystery . . .

And when all things lie lifeless locked in winter's frozen sleep -  
Inside my cupboard one sweet day a pale green tip will peep.  
I'll bring them out into the light and set them in my room -  
And silently and secretly they'll grow and bud and bloom -  
The grey old house will waken from its drowsy slumbering,  
To find the rooms ablaze with flowers, as if it were the Spring! . .

# Planting spring bulbs

Instructions with thanks to Trudi Morgan

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Plant spring bulbs and have fun watching them grow.

Choose the bulbs that you would like to grow. We have included some of the most popular below.

You can plant one or two large bulbs, or a few small bulbs in a single pot. If you prefer you can plant more bulbs in a bigger pot, or in the ground outside if you have a garden. Use the simple guide to help you plant your bulbs.



crocus



iris



tulip



narcissus

Plant the bulbs with their pointy bit or shoot facing upwards, leaving a small space between each bulb.

# Planting your bulbs

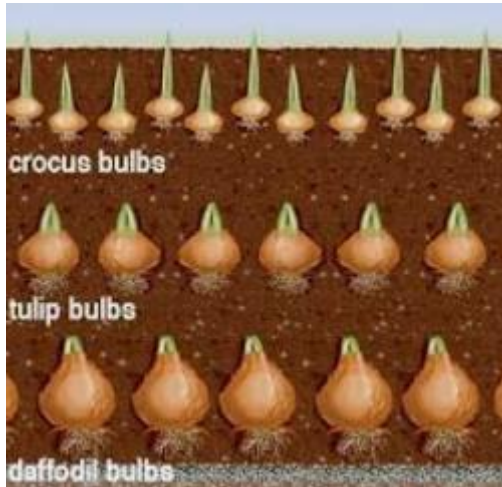
How to plant a large bulb or a few small bulbs in a single pot.



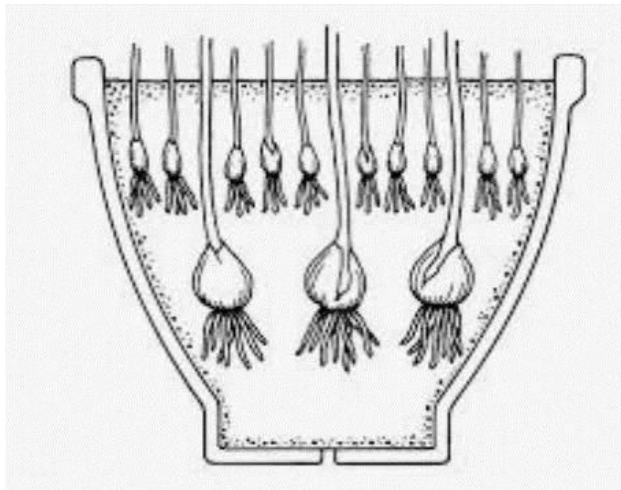
Place some compost in your pot. If you are planting a tulip or a narcissus, half fill the pot, but if you are planting the crocus or iris bulbs, fill it three quarters full. Tap your pot lightly on the table to settle the compost.

Now place one or two larger bulbs on top of the compost, or more if you are planting small bulbs. The bulbs need to be planted pointy end upwards. The flat end, which will produce the roots, sits on the compost. Next cover the bulbs with more compost, filling the pot to just below the top. Firm the compost lightly with by patting it with your hand. Place your pot on a windowsill or where it will get some light, but not direct sunlight. Your bulbs will need only a little water, only water a small amount at a time when the compost feels dry.

# Planting bulbs in a larger pot.



If you want to use a much bigger pot, you can plant your bulbs in layers, with the bigger bulbs planted deeper. They will emerge when they are ready and you will have a colourful display.



Planting outside in the ground.

First dig over the ground where you want to plant your bulbs. Next dig a hole wide enough and deep enough for your bulbs. Plant most bulbs two or three times their depth. For example a tulip should be planted 4 to 6 inches deep whereas a crocus only needs to be planted a couple of inches deep. Plant the bulbs with their pointy bit or shoot facing upwards, leaving a small space between each bulb.

Cover carefully with the soil. If you use a rake, take care not to damage the bulbs. Don't step on the soil where the bulbs are planted. Place a label or stick in the ground to mark the place where the bulbs are planted. You will not need to water the bulbs you plant in the autumn.

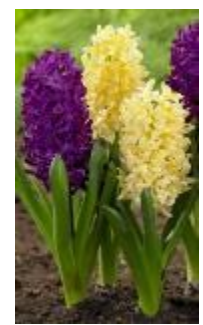


We'd love to hear how you get on. Send us your photos and stories.

# Spring Bulb Quiz

By Trudi Morgan

How many of these flowers do you recognise?  
Solve the anagrams below to help you identify them!



rponswop \_\_\_\_\_

cyhatnih \_\_\_\_\_

lffioda \_\_\_\_\_

lualmi \_\_\_\_\_

rcousc \_\_\_\_\_

sacmuir \_\_\_\_\_

tlipu \_\_\_\_\_

blluee \_\_\_\_\_

mnaenoe \_\_\_\_\_

ssnracius \_\_\_\_\_

Which is your favourite?  
Buy some bulbs to plant  
now for the spring.