



# J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift  
and Garden Center

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[www.JLGardenCenter.com](http://www.JLGardenCenter.com)

## Planting Fall Bulbs

Fall bulbs are perhaps the easiest of all flowers to plant, grow, and have bloom. It is almost impossible to make a mistake planting fall bulbs because all the nutrients the bulbs need to bloom are already stored inside the bulb before you buy them. To keep bulbs healthy year after year requires a little more care. The most important steps for planting and keeping bulbs healthy are: **1. Prepare the soil before planting 2. Choose healthy bulbs 3. Plan your design 4. Plant bulbs properly 5. Take care of your bulbs properly after they bloom.**

The hardest part about planting bulbs is deciding which bulbs you like best and knowing when to stop buying bulbs.



### Soil Preparation

If you plan to leave your bulbs in the soil for several years and want them to bloom their best, be sure to take the time to prepare your soil before you plant them. Most bulbs will adapt and grow in any soils, except in heavy or wet soil conditions. Bulbs tend to rot if they are kept too wet.



Bulbs like good fertile soil, rich in organic matter. Spread one or two inches of soil pep, compost, or well-rotted manure (fresh manure may contain unwanted maggots, grubs, or other insects waiting to eat nice fresh bulbs). Roto till the mulch into the soil at least six to eight inches deep.

Mix a high phosphate fertilizer such as **Bone Meal** or **6-10-4 Flower Food** into the soil while you roto till. Use 6 lbs. of bone meal (or 2 lbs of 6-10-4 fertilizer) per 100 square feet of garden area. Many gardeners prefer to put one tablespoon of fertilizer directly under each bulb as they plant the bulbs; to make sure the fertilizer is right where it needs to be. Do not let the bulb make direct contact with the fertilizer; place the bulb at least an inch away from the fertilizer. Either method of fertilizing is acceptable for planting a bulb garden.

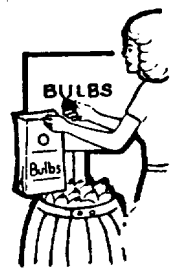


One disadvantage of using bone meal as a fertilizer is that it attracts dogs, squirrels, and other rodents to the area. The animal may just dig up the bulbs looking for a bone or the animal may eat the bulb and all.

### Choose healthy bulbs

If you have a choice between buying a less expensive,

small tulip bulb (10cm - 11cm size) or a more expensive, large tulip bulb (13cm size or larger) choose the larger bulb. Larger bulbs produce larger, stronger blossoms the first year. After the first year, the size and number of blossoms depends on how well you fertilize and take care of your bulb gardens. Purchase the smaller size bulbs to use in large mass planting areas rather than planting them in the smaller garden areas.



Good bulbs should be solid and fleshy; they should look and feel like an onion. Good bulbs should be free of major scars and deep blemishes. If a bulb is soft and spongy, or if the bulb is hard and shriveled, choose a different bulb.

Dust your bulbs with **Bulb Dust** to prevent insect and disease problems. Moisten your bulbs slightly and put them in a paper sack. Add the Bulb Dust (use approximately one teaspoon for every two or three bulbs) and shake the sack until all the bulbs have a thin coat of dust. This dust helps to prevent root rot and it helps to kill many unwanted insects that may be in the soil.



Mice, deer, and gophers may also enjoy eating many of your bulbs. Unfortunately **Bulb Dust** will not control these pests. If you have these problems talk to one of our salespeople for specific precautions you can try to protect your investment.

**Bulb Tip:** Deer love to eat tulips but they will not eat daffodils or hyacinths. Deer do not like the smell of blood meal, many deodorant soaps, human hair, Milorganite fertilizer, lion manure, and many other household products. If the deer do not like the smell in the garden they may leave your plants alone.

## The Right Spot

Bulbs will grow in almost any location; sun, part sun, or shade. Some bulbs prefer the hot sunny areas while others prefer cool shady areas; but most bulbs will adapt to any location. **Example:** A tulip planted in a hot sunny area will bloom much earlier than the same tulip planted in a cool shady area. A tulip blossom will last longer in a cool, moist, shady area than in a hot, dry, sunny area.



## Spacing

The distance you space your bulbs apart is a matter of personal preference but many gardeners prefer to plant in clusters rather than in straight lines. Straight line plantings are good for formal gardens and for borders. Space your bulbs evenly when you plant in straight lines to make them uniform. The closer you plant your bulbs the more flowers you will be able to enjoy in the spring.



If you plant bulbs in clusters you can have a large splash of color with space left between the clusters for planting "companion flowers". You can have a lot of color without having to plant as many bulbs in your garden. Cluster plantings also prevent blossoms from getting "lost" in the garden. Try planting bulbs in clusters of five or seven to get the best impact of color. Space your bulbs four to six inches apart in each cluster. Space your clusters according to your personal preference.



**Bulb Tip:** If you would like to try an informal garden or a natural garden try gently tossing your bulbs into the garden area and then planting the bulbs where they fall. This method insures a more natural spacing and an unusual mix of colors and varieties. This type of design is interesting, but it may be a little too disorganized for some gardeners.

## Companion Planting

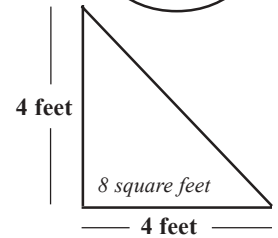
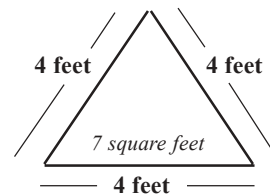
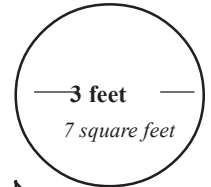
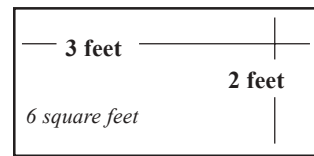
When you plant bulbs consider planting a few perennial flowers or pansies in your gardens with your bulbs. Many flowers, especially pansies, will grow and bloom all winter so you don't have to look at a bare flower garden all winter: while you are waiting for your bulbs to start growing and blooming. Bulbs are also an excellent addition to flower pots and window boxes for early blooming flowers.



Remember, there are no hard and fast rules that you have to follow in designing your bulb gardens. The only limit to your design is your own personal preference and your own imagination. If you have a few questions or if you don't feel comfortable designing your own garden, bring in the measurements of your gardens and we can help design a garden for you.

## How Many Bulbs?

To know how many bulbs to plant in a garden you must first determine the square footage of the garden area you want to plant. Check the following conversion chart to see how many bulbs you need to purchase. Some bulbs need to be spaced two to four inches apart while others should be spaced eight to twelve inches apart. Choose an average spacing depending on what types of bulbs you want to plant.



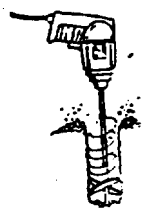
Square Feet	4" Spacing	6" Spacing	10" Spacing	12" Spacing
5	45	20	8	5
10	90	40	15	10
50	450	200	75	50
100	900	400	150	100

**Example:** 10' x 10' area = 100 square feet  
 Bulbs planted 4" apart. 30 rows of 30 bulbs = 900 bulbs  
 Bulbs planted 12" apart. 10 rows of 10 bulbs = 100 bulbs

The hardest part of planting bulbs is deciding what type and how many bulbs to plant in your garden.

## Planting Bulbs

Wait to plant bulbs until the soil starts to cool down (usually in October). If you buy your bulbs early and need to store them until you are ready to plant, keep your bulbs cool and dry. Store your bulbs in cardboard boxes or in paper bags, don't store your bulbs in plastic bags (they may start to rot before you plant them). Store your bulbs out of the direct sunlight. You may store your bulbs in a refrigerator (38 to 40 degrees) but do not put your bulbs into the freezer (below 32 degrees). Keep your bulbs in a cool area of your house.

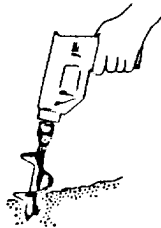


You can dig individual holes for each bulb or you can dig a trench and plant several bulbs at a time. Both methods have their advantages.

Digging individual holes lets you plant your bulbs around existing plants and it is the easiest way to plant bulbs that need to be spaced far apart. This method can be time consuming and hard on your hands, if you just



use a trowel or shovel. If you have a large number of bulbs to plant one at a time, use an electric drill and a bulb auger. Using a bulb auger you can plant 300 to 400 bulbs in one hour. You may end up planting more bulbs than you planned on because it is so fun and easy to dig the holes.



By digging a trench you can plant your bulbs exactly where you want them and you can change your mind and your design easily. You will be able to see exactly how your garden will look next spring; when the bulbs begin to grow. Trench planting works great for cluster gardens.

Be sure to plant your bulbs at the proper depth. Some bulbs need to be planted deeper than others. Crocus bulbs should be planted two or three inches deep while tulip and daffodil bulbs should be planted eight to twelve inches deep. Bulbs planted deep will divide less frequently and the flowers will stay larger than bulbs planted shallow. A rule of thumb is to plant your bulbs three times deeper than the diameter of the bulb. The deeper you plant bulbs (within the bulb's suggested depth range) the better the plants will grow.

## Watering Bulbs



Water your bulb garden thoroughly soon after planting your bulbs. The first watering is very important to help the bulbs settle properly. Once the bulbs are planted and watered they do not need much more water until spring because of the natural fall and winter moisture. If mother nature does not provide moisture in the fall you may need to water your bulbs occasionally until frost.



Do not water bulb gardens very much in the early spring unless the weather is warm and the soil is very dry. The most critical time to keep bulbs moist is while they are blooming. **Do not let your bulb gardens dry out while the bulbs are blooming or the blossoms may fade prematurely.** Do not sprinkle blooming flowers (try to irrigate rather than to sprinkle) or the blossoms may not last as long as they should.

Water bulb gardens regularly once the bulbs start to bloom until the leaves start to turn yellow. Don't water bulb gardens very much after the leaves turn yellow and die. If you keep bulbs too wet during the summer many bulbs will start to rot. Hyacinth bulbs are especially prone to root rot.

## Fertilizing Bulbs

Fertilize your established bulb gardens twice each year to help your bulbs grow, divide, and continue blooming their best year after year. Fertilize early each

spring, just as the leaves emerge from the soil. Use 2 lbs. of **6-10-4 Fertilizer** per 100 square feet. Fertilize your bulb garden again after the bulbs finish blooming using the same 2 lb. of **6-10-4 Fertilizer** per 100 square feet.



## Don't Remove The Leaves!

Perhaps the most common mistake gardeners make trying to grow bulbs is removing the leaves too soon after blooming. The plants need 4 to 8 weeks of growth after they finish blooming to produce enough food for the bulb to produce a blossom next year. If you cut off the leaves too soon the bulb will not have stored enough food for next year. Your bulbs may produce very small flowers the next spring, if they have not stored enough food; or they may not bloom at all. Be sure to cut off the flower stems near the ground as soon as the flowers fade. Do not let the flower stems start to produce seed pods.



## Types Of Tulips

There are so many kinds of tulips, how do you know which ones to choose? They vary by color, blooming time, height, and flower form. The **Royal Horticultural Society** and the **Dutch Flowerbulb Industry** has classified tulips into 13 different categories. Some categories are based on genetic heritage and some are based on flower form. It is a flawed system and some tulips could fit into two or three different categories, but at least it standardizes terminology.



**1. Emperor Tulips (fosteriana tulips).** These are among the first tulips to bloom each spring. They are relatively short stemmed tulips. They sometimes bloom while snow is still on the ground or they may be covered by an inevitable late spring snow storm.



**2. Kaufmanniana Tulips. (rock garden tulips).** These tulips are very short stemmed varieties. They usually grow 4" to 6" tall and have full sized blossoms. They usually bloom when the crocus are blooming in the yard.

**3. Greigii Tulips.** These tulips are very short stemmed tulips similar to the Kaufmanniana. Most greigii tulips are mid season bloomers. They have mottled foliage and large flowers. These too are rock garden tulips.

**4. Single Early Tulips.** These tulips are medium height varieties that bloom after the Emperor Tulips but before the Darwin and Triumph varieties.

**5. Triumph Tulips.** These varieties have the broadest range of colors. They have many soft shades, bicolor varieties and vivid bright colors. These tulips are medium height. They usually grow 14" to 18" tall. They are mid to late bloomers.



**6. Darwin Hybrid.** These tulips are the most popular and versatile varieties. They have strong, vibrant colors. The bulbs are large and hardy and will perennialize for several years without having to dig them, where the conditions are right. Darwin Hybrids are mid to late season bloomers. They grow quite tall, usually 20" to 24" tall.



**7. Single Late Tulips.** These tulips are tall, late blooming varieties. These varieties are valuable in making the transition from early bulb gardens to the summer flower gardens. They often overlap the planting time of summer annuals.

**8. Double Tulips (Double early and Double Late)** These tulips are double petaled types similar to their single blooming cousin. They grow tall and will bloom during the same time as the Single Early and Single Late varieties. They are often called *Peony Flowering Tulips* because the blossoms resemble peony blossoms.



**9. Lily-Flowering Tulips.** These tulips have strongly pointed flower tips. There are not many colors but the blossoms add variety to the garden. These tulips often bloom late.



**10. Parrot Tulips** These tulips are floral freaks that have been popular for years. The feathery petals add an informal look to the bulb garden. Parrot tulips along with many of the other specialty (unusual varieties) are not very long-lived in the garden. Several types of specialty tulips seem to fade away after several years in the garden, unless they are fertilized heavily each year, and divided frequently.



**11. Bouquet Tulips** These tulips produce several flowers on each stem. The blossoms are a little smaller than other varieties but it makes up by having more flowers per bulb.

**12. Species Tulips** These tulips are non-hybrid tulips. The flowers are often small and the stems are usually short; up to 9" tall. These tulips naturalize extremely well and are great in areas where they can be mass planted.



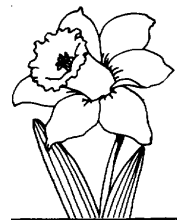
**13. Fringed Tulips.** These tulips are similar to parrot tulips in that they are floral freaks. They have a normal tulip shaped bud but the tips are very frilly and lacy. They are usually tall growing and are mid-season to late-blooming. There are only two or three different colors available in the fringed varieties.



## Daffodil Facts

Daffodils are native to the Mediterranean area. They were grown by the Egyptians and Greeks. Daffodils were brought into the English gardens in the 1500s. By the 1600s about 50 cultivars of daffodils were commonly grown. By

the early 1800s about 400 cultivars were available. Between the 1800s and the early 1900s another 1,000 cultivars were developed. From the early 1900s to the mid 1900s 6,000 more cultivars were hybridized. Today we have more than 24,000 different cultivars to choose from,



if you can find them all. Many of these cultivars have only slight differences and the common daffodil grower would not notice any difference. Just like tulips, the **American Daffodil Society** and the **Royal Horticultural Society** have created several different classifications of daffodils.

**1. Trumpet** - The center cup is as long or longer than the petals.

**2. Large Cup** - The center cup is about the same size or up to 1/3 larger than the petals.

**3. Small Cup** - The center cup is about the same size or smaller than the petals.

**4. Double** - The center cup has multiple layers and there are multiple rows of petals.

**5. Triandrus** - The flower cup hangs and the petals sweep back.

**6. Cyclamineus** - The petals sweep back.

**7. Jonquilla** - The center is a very small cup. They have very fragrant flowers.

**8. Tazetta, Poetaz** - The flowers have very small cups. They are bunch-flowering and fragrant.

**9. Poeticus** - The flowers have white petals, small "eyes", late blooming, and they are usually fragrant.

## Bulb Questions

### 1. Q. Why can't I plant fall bulbs in the Spring?

**A.** Fall Bulbs (Spring-flowering bulbs) must be planted in the fall because they need a long cool period to stimulate the blooming process. Most tulips (and many other bulb varieties) need at least 6 to 8 weeks of cold weather before they will bloom properly. Some bulbs (*Ranunculus*, *Anemone*) can be planted either in the fall or in the spring because they do not require the cold weather to bloom properly.

### 2. Q. It's February and I forgot to plant my bulbs. Do I store them until next year?

**A. NO!** If the bulbs are plump and firm plant them now; even if you have to plant them into pots and put them outside in a shed. Bulbs are not seeds, they will not store. They will dry out and die if not planted. Chances are that you may still get some good results even if you plant them in February or March. If the bulbs have dried out, rotted, or shriveled, throw them away, they will not grow.



### 3. Q. What should I do if the weather warms early and then gets cold again?

**A. Nothing.** Tulips and other bulbs are tough. They can usually take whatever mother nature dishes out. A short freeze won't do any lasting damage to young shoots and buds, though it may "burn" blossoms that have already opened. An unseasonably warm spell may cause bulbs to bloom earlier than anticipated, but in most cases no damage will occur, unless you damage the plants by covering them with mulch or you break the plant by covering it with a blanket.

### 4. Q. How do I keep animals from digging up bulbs?

**A.** Some animals are not attracted to the bulb but they love the smell of Bone Meal you used to fertilize the bulbs. Fido is sure you just buried a bone for him to find and eat! If you have animals (dogs, raccoons, squirrels, etc.) that may be a problem you may want to fertilize your bulbs with a commercial fertilizer instead of an organic fertilizer; to eliminate the odor factor. The only sure way of keeping unwanted animals from digging up your bulbs is to physically cover them with a screen or wire mesh. Some gardeners will leave the wire mesh in the soil and let the bulbs grow up through it. Other gardeners have found that removing the screen or wire mesh after the ground has settled or just before the bulbs begin to grow in the spring is just as effective as leaving the wire mesh permanently. Most animals won't dig up the bulbs after the ground hardens.

### 5. Q. Why is there such a big price difference in Tulip Bulbs?

**A.** Most of the world's crop of tulips (80%) is grown in Holland. In the auction houses of Holland the bulbs are gauged by their caliper (diameter) and quality (firmness, blemishes, skins still attached to the bulb). The bigger the bulb, the higher price it demands. The smaller bulbs are often sold considerably cheaper, depending on the bulb harvest. The Dutch bulb industry will not export any tulip bulbs that are smaller than 10cm in diameter so the quality of bulbs will always stay high.

The larger bulbs produce larger, stronger flowers the first year. After the first year it depends on how well you, the gardener, fertilize and take care of the bulbs. The smaller bulbs are great in areas of mass planting. Individually, the blossoms are smaller but in a big area the blossoms are just as pretty. The smaller bulbs will grow bigger and produce larger flowers as they are fertilized.



The smaller bulbs also naturalize quickly and remain as a stable part of your flower garden.

### 6. Q. When should I plant my bulbs?

**A.** While it is best to buy your bulbs when the best selection is available (September), it is not always good to plant them that soon. Wait until the ground temperature drops below 60 degrees F to plant bulbs (October). Be sure to plant your bulbs at least six weeks before the ground freezes hard, so the bulb has time to start rooting in the fall. The key is to plant in the fall to have blooms in the spring. Even if you forget and plant late, your bulbs will spring into action and try to start rooting. Bulbs are pre-programed to grow and will do their best no matter how late you plant them.

### 7. Q. Why should I plant bulbs in Clusters?

**A. Groups of flowers are more eye appealing than individual "soldiers marching single file".** To create a greater color impact in the garden, plant clusters of the same color bulbs together in blocks. Try planting your bulbs in a triangular pattern in the garden with the point of the triangle towards the front of the garden to make the garden appear more full. Plant bulbs 4" to 8" apart within the clusters and plant your clusters 2' to 4' apart in the garden.

### 8. Q. Should I fertilize bulbs?

**A.** If you are planting bulbs for only one year's bloom, **NO**. If you want the bulbs to perennialize and bloom for many years; **YES**. Fertilize your bulbs when you plant them with a slow release bulb food such as Bone Meal or Bulb & Bloom Fertilizer. Fertilize each spring, just as the shoots are appearing, with a balanced Vegetable & Flower Fertilizer such as **6-10-4** or **16-16-8**.

### 9. Q. What should I do after the flowers fade in the spring?

**A.** Wait until the blossom fade and "Dead Head" the plants. (Remove the flower head so it will not produce seeds.) Do not remove the leaves until the bulb has had a chance to re produce the food reserves within the bulb (six to eight weeks). If you remove the leaves too soon your bulbs will not bloom very well, if at all, next spring. Fight the urge to trim back or contain the leaves during the die-back phase. Don't bunch, tie or cut off the leaves during this period. Dealing with the fading foliage is one of those things that lovers of spring bulbs must learn to deal with. The only management tip is to camouflage the leaves; plant other flowers around them so they are not as noticeable.



# NATURE'S MIRACLES FROM HOLLAND

## FALL PLANTING GUIDE

EASY PLANTING FOR BEAUTIFUL SPRING BLOOM

