

Flowering every perennial.

Flower bulbs, just like perennials, can flower again next year. But since most of them can be damaged by frost, they should be taken from the ground once their leaves have withered back and then stored in a dark, dry, frost-free place. Lilies, however, are an exception to this rule. They can be left in the ground and will simply flower again next year. We call this perennial flowering. Lilies, like most other bulbous plants, are available in many varieties and sizes.



Enjoy your bulbs again next year.



Lily

Gladioli

Dahlia

Oxalis deppei

Lachenalia

Montbretia

Begonia

Gloriosa

Begonia

Canna

Agapanthus

Garden Lily



International Flower Bulb Centre



Summer Bulbs

Plant on time.

Plant summer bulbs after the last frost, which is usually March until the end of May.

Plan for more enjoyment.

Have you tried bulbs?

Trying to decide which bulbs to buy? By considering their various flowering periods, your summer garden can be bursting with colour from June to October. If you also plant spring-flowering bulbs such as tulips and narcissi in the autumn, you can start enjoying flowers in your garden as early as February.

Choose your colour.

Deciding on combinations of colour is important too so plant various kinds together. A good example would be 20 anemones, 9 ornithogalums and 3 decorative dahlias. Begonias, combined with the smaller dahlia varieties such as Topmix and the new low growing, profusely flowering varieties in the Dahlianova Gallery and Impression collections will make a great display in containers.

Experiment with heights.

A range in height adds so much interest to the garden, keep this factor in mind when you choose and plant your bulbs. Locate taller summer bulbs such as gladioli and lilies as colour accents next to shrubs and tall perennials and ornamental grasses. Lower-growing summer bulbs such as begonias, oxalis and anemones will add sparkle when planted among perennial groundcovers.



When to plant

Summer-flowering bulbs, corms and tubers are planted in the spring. This can be done as soon as the danger of frost is over. You can continue planting them until the end of May.

In the sun

Bulbs are sun worshipers. Plant them in a sunny spot in the garden or in containers that receive a lot of light.

In furrows or holes

Summer bulbs can be planted in various ways. Use a trowel, for example, to dig planting holes and/or furrows.

Planting bulbs – how it's done.

How deep? A rule of thumb and its exceptions

A general rule for planting depth is to plant a bulb, corm or tuber to a depth twice as deep as it is tall. So a bulb 5 cm tall should be planted 10 cm deep in the ground. The exceptions are begonias and dahlias. These should be planted just beneath the soil surface. But the instructions on the package always give you exact information.

How far apart?

For small kinds, 10 centimetres is a good distance. For gladioli, this would be 12 cm, for begonias 25 cm, for lilies 30 cm and for dahlias even 40 cm. If you want an unbroken field of colour, you can plant most bulbs somewhat closer together.

Loosen the soil

The soil should be thoroughly loosened before planting. Next, make the planting surface fairly level without taping in down. Summer bulbs can be planted in any type of soil provided that it drains properly. Extra fertiliser for the first flowering period is usually unnecessary. If your soil is a heavy clay, it would be a good idea to mix in some sand or compost to make it more porous. Fill containers with garden or potting soil.

Water immediately

As soon as they are planted, summer bulbs require heavy watering to encourage the roots to sprout straightaway. Thereafter, you should keep the soil in your garden or containers moist during the dry spring period.



Cut flowers

Your own freshly cut flowers

It's always delightful to have flowers inside, and even nicer if you can pick them straight from your own garden. Several kinds of summer bulbs are perfect for use as cut flowers – especially gladioli, dahlias (such as the cactus and decorative varieties) and lilies. Don't want to disturb the looks of your garden by cutting its flowers? Then create a separate cutting garden hidden away elsewhere. Here, plant the flower

bulbs a bit closer together. This way, the flowers will support one another as they grow, and you can pick nice straight stems. Also consider their flowering periods as well. If you choose summer bulbs with various flowering periods, you'll have freshly cut flowers inside all summer long.



Tips for a colourful summer garden.

1.

Include flowering summer bulbs in pots and containers.

2.

See if you have places for hanging containers. These would also make perfect homes for summer bulbs.

3.

Keep their flowering periods in mind so you can enjoy colour in your garden all summer long.

4.

Play with height by selecting both tall and shorter flowers.

5.

Create a separate cutting garden, and have your own flower shop right outside the door.

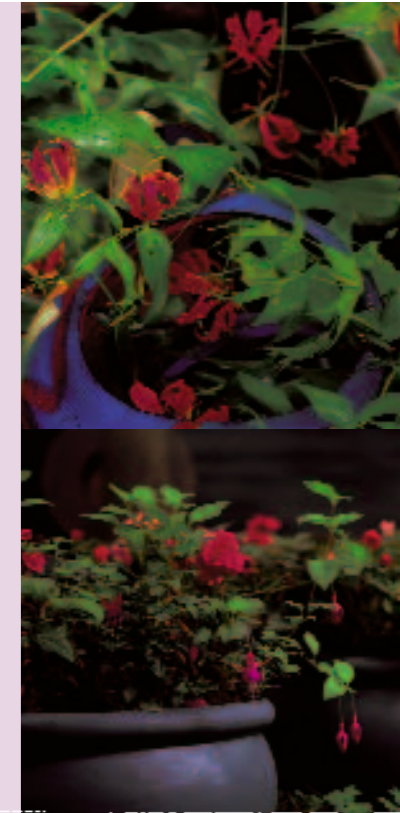
6.

Combine perennials and annuals with summer bulbs for lovely summer borders.

Many summer-flowering bulbs, corms and tubers are suitable for planting in pots and containers. A great way to give your balcony a summery accent or your brick-covered patio some extra sparkle. Good choices would include begonias, low-growing dahlias, eucomis, zantedeschia and oxalis. Flower bulbs, too, can be planted in practically all kinds of containers. Bulbs planted in pots can be planted a bit more closely together than in the garden.

Moisture levels in pots

Plants in pots always require a bit more attention than those planted in the garden. In pots, insufficient or excess moisture can more quickly lead to problems. It's very important, for example, to allow for good drainage so that the bulbs won't "drown". To ensure this, pots should have a drainage hole that should then be covered with potsherds. Containers should also be deep enough to prevent the bulbs from drying out. Water the pots regularly, and remove faded flowers.



Colourful pots and containers.

