



Bloom times

March	April	May	June
Crocus	Anemone blanda	Allium	Allium
Eranthis	Chionodoxa	Camassia	Arisaema
Galanthus	Eranthus	Fritillaria	Fritillaria
	Erythronium	Eremurus	Iris reticulata
	Narcissus	Hyacinth	Narcissus
	Puschkinia	Iris reticulata	Nectaroscordum
	Scilla	Leucojum	Ornithogalum
	Tulipa	Mertensia	Tulipa
	Sanguina	Muscaria	
		Narcissus	
		Tulipa	

Plant times

- Soon after purchase! From six weeks before ground freezes until you can no longer get a spade in the ground. End of September to November in most areas.

Pointed end up

- Or darker, flatter, root-end down. If in doubt, plant bulb sideways and it will right itself as it grows.

Bed preparation

- Add compost, this will feed the bulb. Ensure soil is freely draining to avoid water logged (thus rotting) bulbs.

Depth

- Use the height of the bulb as a rough guide and dig a hole 3-5 times deeper than the height of the bulb. For example, plant larger bulbs (tulips, hyacinths, narcissus) at 7 inches and smaller bulbs (scilla, anemone, crocus, galanthus) at 3-5 inches.

Spacing

- All bulbs should be planted at least as far apart as they are wide.
- More space if necessary – not less.

Arrangement

- Plant in clumps – oval or triangular (it will look fuller), minimum of 5 bulbs. With different planting depths, assorted bulbs may be planted in the same place – known as ‘layering’.
- Create small vignettes incorporating garden ornaments (for example) into your scheme.



Location

- Plant in bare spots between/behind perennials or where you had annuals. Plant in full sun.
- Remember the bloom times are often before deciduous trees fully leaf out.
- Plant narcissus or crocus in the lawn or under groundcovers to naturalize.
- 'Scatter' the bulbs to determine their planting location for a natural look.

Routine Care

- Bulbs need adequate water during growing season – pay attention if under eaves or woodland setting.
- Deadheading at regular intervals improves vigour of bulbs.
- After flowering, allow leaves to die-down completely before removing; this includes those planted in the lawn!
- Lift crowded clumps during dormant season, before root growth starts. Separate and replant.
- If planted temporarily in beds leave 'in situ' until foliage has begun to yellow - lift, clean and dry. Store in a paper bag, in dry place, until fall planting. Alternatively, after foliage yellows, replant in another part of garden (holding spot) to pass the summer before returning to prime location.

Problems

Loss of Vigour/ no blooms

- Overcrowding
- Shortage of water during growing season
- Stored incorrectly before planting
- Not yet fully mature
- Shy-flowering (i.e. does not bloom regularly even in nature) for example, *Fritillaria thunbergii* – may bloom eventually if left undisturbed.
- Age
- If planted in grass avoid high nitrogen fertilizers since they increase the vigour of the grass, at the bulb's expense.
- If a 'boost' is needed, use high potassium fertilizer to encourage blooms.

Pests/Diseases

- Occasionally fungal diseases. Dust with cinnamon (anti-fungicide)
- Aphids may show an interest. Control with insecticidal soap.
- Fritillarias are choice snack for Japanese beetles. Hand pick and squash!
- Squirrels, rabbits: Spray made of 1 garlic bulb/2 cups water in blender; strain; add to 1 gallon of water with a few drops of soap; made need to reapply after rain

