**Bloom times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crocus</td>
<td>Anemone blanda</td>
<td>Allium</td>
<td>Allium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eranthis</td>
<td>Chionodoxa</td>
<td>Camassia</td>
<td>Arisaema</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galanthus</td>
<td>Eranthus</td>
<td>Fritillaria</td>
<td>Fritillaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erythronium</td>
<td>Eremurus</td>
<td>Iris reticulata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narcissus</td>
<td>Hyacinth</td>
<td>Narcissus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puschkinia</td>
<td>Iris reticulate</td>
<td>Nectaroscordum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scilla</td>
<td>Leucojum</td>
<td>Ornithogalum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tulipa</td>
<td>Mertensia</td>
<td>Tulipa</td>
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<td>Sanguina</td>
<td>Muscaria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Narcissus</td>
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<td>Tulipa</td>
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</tbody>
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**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

Prepared by Halton Region Master Gardeners
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