

Summer Bulbs

Wasn't it easy to get that wonderful spring color? You dug a hole last fall and dropped in crocus, daffodil, hyacinth or tulip bulbs. Covered them up and went back inside to wait until spring. The hardest part was probably choosing which bulbs and colors to plant.

Wouldn't it be nice to take care of your summer garden color the same way? Well, you can. There are summer bulbs, corms and rhizomes that need the same amount of care. You dig a hole, drop them in and voila!, in a few weeks, you have summer color. Again, the hardest part will be choosing what to plant. Here are some suggestions for you.

Agapanthus – [Agreeable Agapanthus, Love Flower](#)

Amaryllis Belladonna – [What Do You Say to a Naked Lady? \(Amaryllis belladonna\)](#)

Calla Lilies – [Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious "Lilies"](#)

Canna flowers are similar to Gladiolus, large clusters of flowers. But think steroids. These plants are big, brash and bold. Canna rhizomes should be planted in loose, fertile, well-drained soil. They don't have a top or bottom so just lay them in the ground and cover with about two inches of soil after all danger of hard frost has passed. For a really showy statement in your garden, plant a group. Again, the lazy gardener can mulch over the cannas and take a chance on their coming up the next year. A website full of information on Cannas can be found at [Horn Canna Farm's site](#).

Croscosmia – [Crocosmia](#)

Dahlias – [Dahlia Success](#)

Eucomis – [Eucomis](#)

Gladiolus is native to sub-Saharan Africa and contains about 260 species. For your garden, let's choose the type with flower spikes that are found in the bulb section of your local nursery or big box store. Technically, these aren't bulbs, but corms. They like to be planted in full sun and will do best if planted where they don't get a lot of wind. Plant corms every two weeks to extend the growing season. As they flower, cut the spent flowers from the bottom of the stalk. When finished blooming, leave the foliage as you would on your spring bulbs, waiting until it dies down. Lift the corms, shake off the dirt, let dry and store until next summer to replant. Here in Vancouver WA, our winters are typically mild enough that the lazy gardener can chose to leave the corms in the garden, IF your planting area drains well. However, the next year you will not get an extended blooming season but rather a flush of flowers all at the same time.

Ixia – [Ixia \(Iridaceae\)](#)

Lilies are another good choice for summer color. They can be planted anytime you can work the ground and not make clods. (Squeeze dirt together, if it sticks, you have a clod.) Plant them in a well drained sunny location, about 4 inches deep. Lilies can stay in the ground over the winter. The [Lily Garden](#) in Vancouver WA has an excellent website with more information on the growing and care of these bulbs. [Her Majesty -- Genus Liliun](#) was previously published on our website in August of 2002.

Peonies – [Peony Pleasures](#)

Red Hot Pokers – [Red Hot Poker \(Torch Lily\)](#)

Try some of the above plants in your garden this summer. Dig a hole, drop in the bulb, corm or rhizome then sit back and let nature take her course.