



Bulb Lasagna

Here's a project to brighten your early Spring doldrums with great color and fragrance! Planting bulbs for a succession of blooms from February to early May is a great way to welcome the new gardening season.

You'll need a deep pot, non-peat compost, a selection of bulbs that bloom early versus late, tall versus short stems and some top dressing. Terra cotta is a beautiful choice for a pot. (English terra cotta is fired twice and is less likely to crack in a freeze). But any outdoor pot will do. Make sure your pot has good drainage. Use a non-peat based compost. You might add a little grit or perlite to keep it light. Plant your bulbs such that the upper most bulbs in your pot are the ones to pop up first and lower bulbs rise through the top layers. Consider a tulip/narcissus/crocus lasagna. Fill in your pot with compost until it is eight inches from the top. This is where you will plant your first layer. Tulips are an excellent first layer. You can fill the

area with your bulbs, close but not touching. (You don't want bulbs touching as if there is a virus in one it will spread to your other bulbs. Tulip blight is worse with over packing). Do not worry about the lowest layer being able to get through the layers above as the stems will just move around the bulbs above.

Put in more compost over the tulips and tamp down lightly. Fill in with your next layer of narcissus. Again, choose your bulbs for color and fragrance.

Put in more compost over the narcissus, tamp down a bit and fill in with compost until you are about two inches from top rim. Now plant your final layer of crocus. Don't be afraid to fill in the layers, close without touching. And put one inch of compost over the crocus. Tamp down. You can top dress with some grit or even some winter annuals. Depending upon the size of your pot, you may have up to 75 bulbs in your pot!

Set your pot in an area where the color and scent will provide the most pleasure and enjoy your Spring surprise.

When the blooms are spent you can feed the bulbs and set the pot in a quiet spot of your garden.