



## Steps for Planting Spring Flowering Bulbs

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1. In our climate, planting of spring flower bulbs is usually done in the fall, along with fall clean-up. Soil preparation is as easy as turning good compost into the soil. The soil needs to be well draining, since bulbs can rot if kept too wet.
2. Think visually when planting your bulbs. A single bulb can make just as much of a statement as a whole bed full. Planting depth is decided by the type and size of the bulb, or 3 times as deep as the bulb is high.
3. After planting, a good deep watering should be all that's needed. However, in our dry winters, we don't want the soil to become too dry for too long. So watch and be aware that you may need to water in the winter when the soil is dry and the weather is mild. The trees and shrubs would benefit from watering also. Place markers and any needed future supports, so we can remember where we planted them in the spring and not dig them up when working in the garden. Then cover the bed with a layer of bark mulch.
4. Then we wait for spring.
5. In the spring, when the plants start to emerge, is a good time to fertilize. This will promote good root and leaf growth for the following year's bloom.
6. At the end of bloom remove the seed stalks, but leave the green foliage. The leaves feed the bulbs for future spring blooming. When the leaves have turned brown and dry you can remove them.
7. When the bed becomes too crowded or you need to move them, just dig them up in late summer and start again. Extras can always be given to friends. If they need to be stored, keep them in a cool, dry, dark place. Never in plastic bags or boxes. They need to breathe. Store them single layer on newspaper and check on them occasionally, because sometimes one or two of them may turn moldy and you will want to discard these, so as not to infect the others. The location you store them should be cool but not freezing, and not too warm or they will sprout.

