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Planting and Caring for Spring and Summer Flowering Bulbs in San Antonio, Texas

Selecting and Buying Bulbs:

Bulbs will likely be available in the garden centers in September and you should purchase them when they are available and selections are plentiful.

There is no rush to plant them, but there is a rush to get the selections before they are gone.

***Many spring bulbs need to be chilled for 8-12 weeks before planting.**

Take bulbs home and chill them in a paper bag in the refrigerator for about 12 weeks.

Look over bulbs that you are purchasing and make sure there are no soft spots, insects, disease, or obvious cuts on the bulbs.

When to plant bulbs in San Antonio:

Spring flowering bulbs should be planted November - December (**purchase bulbs in September and October so that you can chill them in a paper bag in the refrigerator for 8-12 weeks before planting them.**) -Spring flowering bulbs need the cooler weather all winter to develop the strong root system needed to support the foliage produced once warmer weather arrives in early spring.

Summer flowering bulbs should be planted March through May.

Planting Bulbs in San Antonio

Bulbs look best, making stunning displays, when planted in mass. This is generally

the type of “wow” factor that people are looking for when planting bulbs.

1. Prepare your bulb planting area.

- Remove any weeds from planting area. -Loosen soil by tilling it about 8”- 10” deep -Amend the soil with 4” – 6” organic matter like compost or peat moss and blend it thoroughly into your native soil.

2. Dig the holes for your bulbs.

- The general rule for bulb holes is to dig the hole deep enough so that when you set the bulb in the hole, the top of the bulb is three times as deep as the hole is tall.

3. Space your bulbs.

- In order to get the “showy” display of blooms, you should space your bulbs no more the length of the diameter of the bulb.

4. Provide an extra boost of nutrition

- Adding a handful of bone meal and blood meal to the holes before planting the bulbs encourages strong root development, which is crucial to the spring growth of foliage and flowers.

5. Water the soil thoroughly to eliminate any air pockets that might be surrounding the bulbs.

6. Mulch with 2”- 3” to help hold moisture in the soil.

7. Keep bulbs moist, but do not overwater in winter (this will surely result in bulb death.)

- We usually don’t need much supplemental irrigation with our natural rainfall in winter.

8. Do not cut back foliage on bulbs until the leaves have turned yellow.

- If you cut back the foliage before then, you risk the bulbs not flowering the following year.

Extra Tips for Planting Bulbs -If you have problems with squirrels or other animals digging up your bulbs, you can dust the bulbs with sulphur powder or douse them with animal repellent before planting them.

Reblooming bulbs can either be left in the area to bloom the following year, or dug up and stored and replanted in fall.

- If you are keeping the bulbs in the ground, you need to make sure you know where they are so you don’t end up digging them up if planting something

else in the same area. You can mark the area with garden flags.

List of Spring and Summer Blooming Bulbs

***Please note exceptions to planting times noted within lists.**

Spring Blooming Bulbs; Plant in Fall and Winter (October – December)

- Allium Amaryllis (plant in pots in winter, spring in garden)
- Calla Lily
- Daffodils
- Easter Lily
- Hyacinth (plant in early January)
- Iris (Bearded, Louisiana, Siberian) (Spring and summer blooming)
- Narcissus
- Ranunculus
- Tulip (plant in early January)

Summer Blooming Bulbs; Plant in Spring

- Agapanthus
- Caladium
- Canna
- Crinum
- Curcuma
- Dahlia
- Daylily (plant in winter)
- Elephant Ear
- Gladiolus
- Gingers
- Oxalis
- Iris (plant in fall and winter)
- Rain Lily (plant in winter)