

## How to Grow Bulbs Outdoors for Spring Colour

A fun activity for the end of summer and the beginning of autumn is to choose bulbs to grow in the garden or in containers outside. There are plenty of catalogues to look through or look online, and lots of choice in garden centres or even supermarkets. Bulbs chosen at this time will flower in the spring and early summer.

### What to Choose?



Daffodils

Daffodils come in shades of yellow and white and a range of sizes - small for containers or larger for borders. Tulips come in many colours from white, pink, yellow, and dark reds to purples and mauves. Small ones tend to flower early and taller ones later in May. There are plenty of smaller bulbs which are easy to grow for Spring colour including Crocus, Muscari (Grape Hyacinth), Dwarf Iris



Tulips



Crocus



Muscari



Dwarf Iris

### Bulbs in containers

Bulbs give great Spring colour in large pots, window boxes or hanging baskets. Choose a variety of different sized and types of bulb and they can be planted in layers, 'Lasagne' style. In a container with drainage holes, fill a few inches with multi-purpose compost then place a layer of the largest bulbs. Cover with another layer of compost and place the next sized bulbs, continuing until the smallest bulbs are placed and covered. Water after



Primula-topped bulb baskets!

planting and make sure the containers don't dry out. Window boxes and hanging baskets can be planted the same way but using smaller bulbs. The bulbs will not grow until late winter and spring, so to enjoy a colourful winter display until then, plant winter pansies or primulas on the top of the bulbs. Just dead head the pansies to keep them flowering and keep a look out to spot the bulbs peeking through!

