

LANDON'S
GREENHOUSE & NURSERY
56 LANDON LANE * 505 COLLEGE MEADOWS
SHERIDAN, WY 307/672-8340; FAX 307/674-6083
www.LandonsGreenhouse.com

Adding Color to Your Life

BULB BASICS

*FALL BULBS bloom the following spring and include: Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus, Hyacinth, Bearded Iris, and small bulbs such as Allium, Chionodoxa, Grape Hyacinth, etc. Paperwhites, Prepared Hyacinths and Amaryllis are available each Fall for Forcing. SPRING BULBS bloom in the summer and include: Dahlias, Cannas, Gladiolas, Lilies, Iris. Dahlias, Cannas and Glads must be dug in the fall and overwintered in a cool, dark place.

*Which way is up?! If there is a pointed part of the bulb, that is up!

*How deep do I plant? The general rule of thumb is 3 times the height of the bulb.

*To NATURALIZE, throw the bulbs onto a patch of ground and plant them where they fall. Daffodils, crocus, grape hyacinths and many small bulbs are good for naturalizing because they reproduce and spread. Tulips and Hyacinths are not used for naturalizing.

*Plant in odd numbers and color groupings for a more dramatic effect.

*Time of Bloom and Height are 2 key pieces of information prominently displayed on bulb boxes. Wyomingites should choose mostly Very Early, Early and Mid-Season Blooming bulbs, with a few Late Blooming. Height information assists in planning the lay-out of the bulb garden. For example, one effective planting method is to place the shortest bulbs to the front, gradually stepping up in height to the back of the bed.

*When the bulbs are finished blooming, cut the blossom off, but allow the foliage to grow and nourish the bulb. When the foliage has yellowed and withered, cut it, too, and plant annuals or perennials in the bed, over the bulbs. Forced bulbs are generally discarded, though some may be transferred to the garden. Amaryllis are kept as a houseplant and, with special (but simple) care, will bloom each year.

FORCING BULBS

FORCING refers to “forcing” bulbs to bloom indoors, ahead of season, in pots. Paperwhites, Prepared Hyacinths (so-called because they have been cold-treated before they arrive at the store) and Amaryllis are the only bulbs that can be immediately set out at room temperature. Other bulbs can be forced, however, if they are given the proper cold treatment.

- Use odd numbers whenever possible
- Place the flat side of tulips to the pot sides
- Paperwhites & Amaryllis need no cold period
- Cold period* needed for other bulbs is:
 Tulips—15-17 weeks
 Hyacinths, prep—no cold period
 Hyacinths, not prep—12-13 weeks
 Daffodils, small—12-13 weeks
 Daffodils, large—15-16 weeks
 Small bulbs—14-15 weeks

*Cold periods are above freezing but below 45 degrees F. One way to achieve this is via refrigerator, but since most of us do not have extra room for such long periods other methods are usually employed. If you have a cold frame, set the pots in here, making sure they won't freeze to the ground. Or, dig a trench 3 inches deeper than the pot. Line the bottom with 1" of straw or gravel. Set the pots in and cover them with more leaves. Lastly, cover the trench with a tarp. Bring pots indoors at the end of the specified cold period.

OVERWINTERING TENDER BULBS

Dahlias After frost has blackened tops, carefully dig up and wash off soil. Dry slightly in sun. Store in dry peat moss or vermiculite in dark area at 35 to 40 degrees F. Check often to make sure tubers are not shriveling or growing. Add water or dry out as needed. In spring, plant tubers 4" deep after danger of frost. Start indoors in pots early to get a head start.

Tuberous Begonias Remove begonia from ground before frost. Store in any dry packing material between 45 to 60 degrees F. In spring, start indoors 4 to 6 weeks before last frost (traditionally in this area, May 25). After last frost, plant 1 inch deep in rich, fertile soil.

Gladiolus Dig glads after they flower. Dig up corms and store in mesh sack or cold pantyhose hung from the ceiling. Temperature should be between 35 to 40 degrees F. In spring, plant corms 4 to 6 inches deep and 4 to 6 inches apart.