



October 27, 2020

Contributed by Trish Reynolds

LASAGNA GARDENING WITH BULBS

What exactly is a bulb (or corm, rhizome)? In general, the term bulb is an underground “home” or storage unit....it contains everything a flower will need to grow. Inside the bulb are the seed, the roots, and the flower itself as well as the leaves! Bulbs generally like our cool to cold winters, and they do not like wet “feet,” as they were originally from the Mediterranean area, Turkey and Russia.



So let’s get down to the business of planting bulbs in a container for a Spring 2021 display. What will you need?

- Choose a variety of bulbs – daffodils (15-18” tall), Dutch Iris, crocus, muscari, reticulata iris, small a-tete, maybe some allium.....pick your own mix, but be sure that you choose some tall, some medium and some short.
- Container - I use plastic containers, as your container will be outdoors or in an unheated garage. It should be at least 15-24” high with a width of at least 15”. Be sure you have holes in the bottom for drainage.



tulips (15-22” tall), daffodils like Tete-



- Next, add some stones or clay shards for drainage....this layer should be 1 – ½”.
- Now we will add a layer of potting soil to your pot.....roughly 2”.
- Add you first layer of bulbs: tall bulbs first, either tulips, or daffodils or mix them together. Place them on the soil close together, but not touching.
- Add more soil....2” or so....add more bulbs....daffodils, tulips, or Dutch Iris, keeping in mind their bloom time, their height and colors.
- Keep doing this till you are roughly 6-7” from the top of your container. At this point add the small bulbs to top off your containerthe crocus, muscari, small daffodils, or reticulata iris. Be sure to pack the bulbs and corms in tightly for the best display.
- Top off with potting soil, leaving about 1-1/2” of space at the top of your container.

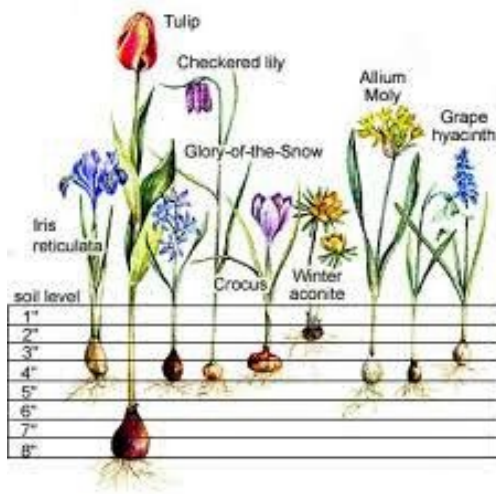
How do you care for your container over the winter? Bulbs like cool to cold winters, so we have a few choices. We can store the containers in a cool, unheated garage – or we can put the container outside, in a sheltered area covered with leaves or pine needles, where the **container will not get much sun.** Or we can “plant” the



container in the ground and cover it with leaves for the winter. If you put the container in the garage, be sure to visit your container once a month and give it a little water....not too much. If your container is outside, Mother Nature should help out with rain and snow.

Somewhere around March, you can bring your container outside into the sunshine. When you see it sprouting then start watering a bit more frequently, about three times a week....sparingly. If the container has been outside all winter in a shady spot you can move it to a more sunny location – this is also true if you have “buried” your container.

April and May – now is the time you will see the beauty of your effort – a Beautiful, Colorful, Spring Bouquet!!!. Enjoy.



P.S. I am happy to give more suggestions on this subject, and any others regarding bulb plantings....as most of you know, this is what I truly love! So just contact me.