

# GROWING DAFFODILS

*Even though daffodils are hardy and very adaptable, it is worthwhile knowing their cultural requirements to increase your pleasure in gardening with bulbs.*

## POSITION

Daffodils prefer full sun during Winter and Spring, for at least half of the day. Being tolerant of most conditions, daffodils can be grown in almost any position, except dense shade.

## SOIL

Daffodils will flourish in any friable, well-drained soil. If necessary, raise beds to avoid water-logging.

## PLANTING TIME

Daffodils are planted in Autumn (March-April), when the soil has cooled after the summer. As flowering time of daffodils (July-September.) is mainly influenced by variety, there is no advantage in planting too early.

## FERTILIZER

Fertilizer requirements are not critical. Bulbs will respond to light applications of Complete Home Garden or Bulb Fertilizer, applied before planting. Subsequently sulphate of potash can be applied when growth commences each Spring. Avoid using fertilizers based on animal manure as it is believed that high Nitrogen fertilisers encourage only leaf growth.

## WATERING

In most areas, natural rainfall is all that is required. In warmer areas soil may need to be kept moist, to initiate growth in Autumn, and to keep foliage green in late Spring. Do not water bulbs in Summer.

## LIFTING

Daffodils, and most other bulbs may be left undisturbed to "clump up" for at least five years. If bulbs have become shy of flowering through overcrowding they will benefit from being lifted and spaced out when replanting.



# LANDSCAPING WITH BULBS

*Consider these ideas for a spectacular Spring flower display.*

- ✿ Plant daffodils, bluebells, wood hyacinths or grape hyacinths around deciduous trees for a mass of colour when the tree is dormant.
- ✿ Clumps of brightly coloured daffodils complement blossom and fruit trees.
- ✿ Daffodils planted among roses give all year colour.
- ✿ Complement shrubs such as azaleas and rhododendrons, by planting clumps of daffodils and other bulbs nearby.
- ✿ Low growing bulbs like grape hyacinths, hyacinths and small daffodils, brighten edges of flower beds, pathways and lawns.
- ✿ Naturalize daffodils, ixias, sparaxis and snowflakes in lawn areas, in clumps of one colour or one variety.
- ✿ Miniature daffodils, crocus and rock tulips give colourful accents to the rockery in springtime.
- ✿ Complement daffodils with vivid blue grape hyacinths planted in thick clumps nearby.
- ✿ Plant bulbs in drifts or clumps, rather than as isolated plants or in straight rows.
- ✿ Highlight native gardens with colourful splashes of daffodils and other Spring bulbs.
- ✿ Spring flowering bulbs combine well with pansies, violas, polyanthus, alyssum and primroses which continue to flower as the foliage finishes off.
- ✿ For a long succession of flowers, companion plant daffodils with spring flowering perennials such as wall flowers, lupins, calendulas and Asiatic lilliums.
- ✿ Plant fragrant hyacinths, jonquils and freesias near outdoor living areas to gain most pleasure from the perfume.
- ✿ Plant summer flowering herbaceous perennials to hide dying bulb foliage and fill the resulting gap.

# BULBS IN CONTAINERS

*For added flexibility, most bulbs can be grown in tubs or pots.*

## GROWING TIPS

**CONTAINER:** Choose a container with ample drainage. Preferably a deep pot or at least 3-4 times the depth of the bulbs to be planted. Plant bulbs with plenty of room to allow for adequate root development.

**SOIL:** Use a commercial potting mix that complies with the Australian potting mix standard. Don't add manures or composts.

**FERTILIZER:** A slow release fertilizer should be incorporated in the potting media and then applied each year as the bulbs emerge.

**WATERING:** Containers should be kept moist, but not wet, throughout the growing season and until the foliage dries off. They should be protected from summer heat and excess water while dormant.

**AFTER FLOWERING:** Ideally, bulbs in smaller containers should be planted out in the garden after flowering to recover for next season as they have multiplied and to fill the pot.

- ✿ Potted bulbs are easily moved to the most suitable protected or sunny position. Move them to a prominent position whilst flowering and afterwards replace with other containers.
- ✿ Although potted bulbs are best left outside while growing, pots can be moved indoors while flowering for added enjoyment.
- ✿ Groups of containers planted with a variety of flowering bulbs, make a spectacular display and for a longevity of flowering.
- ✿ Pots of different colours of the one bulb type, grouped on a patio or window ledge are very effective.
- ✿ Bulbs may be grown in pots and sunk into garden beds for easy removal after flowering.
- ✿ Balance heights and growth of bulbs with container size.
- ✿ Bulbs in an attractive container make a unique, long-lasting gift, either as a pre-planted pot to watch develop or as a spectacular gift in full bloom.



# BULB SELECTION GUIDE

*Position, climate, region and even gardening technique may cause some variance to the information contained in this guide.*

## FOR CONTAINERS

shorter growing daffodils, crocus, colchicums, hyacinths, tulips, freesias, lachenalias, dwarf ranunculi, cyclamen, babianas, brodiaeas, star flowers, dwarf iris

## FOR FRAGRANCE

jonquils, daffodils described as fragrant, pheasants eye, paper white, freesias, hyacinths, leucocorynes

## FOR NATURALIZING

daffodils, wood hyacinths, grape hyacinths, alliums, freesias, colchicums, Dutch iris, anemones, ornithogalums, jonquils & tazettas, snowflakes, bluebells, harlequin flowers, ixias, brodiaea, sternbergias, cyclamen, trout lilies, nerines, dwarf gladioli

## FOR ROCKERIES

miniature daffodils, hoop petticoats, rock & species tulips, hyacinths, freesias, colchicums, grape hyacinths, crocus, babianas, lachenalias, star flowers, sterbergias, autumn snowflakes, chionodoxas, dwarf iris, calochortus

## FOR LIGHT SHADE

daffodils, cyclamen, wood hyacinths, grape hyacinths, crocus, fritillaries, trout lilies, bluebells, wood anemones

## FOR CUT FLOWERS

daffodils, Dutch iris, freesias, anemones, ranunculi, tulips, nerines, hyacinths, leucocorynes, ornithogalums, dwarf gladioli

## FOR COTTAGE GARDENS

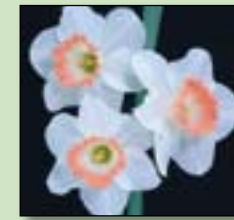
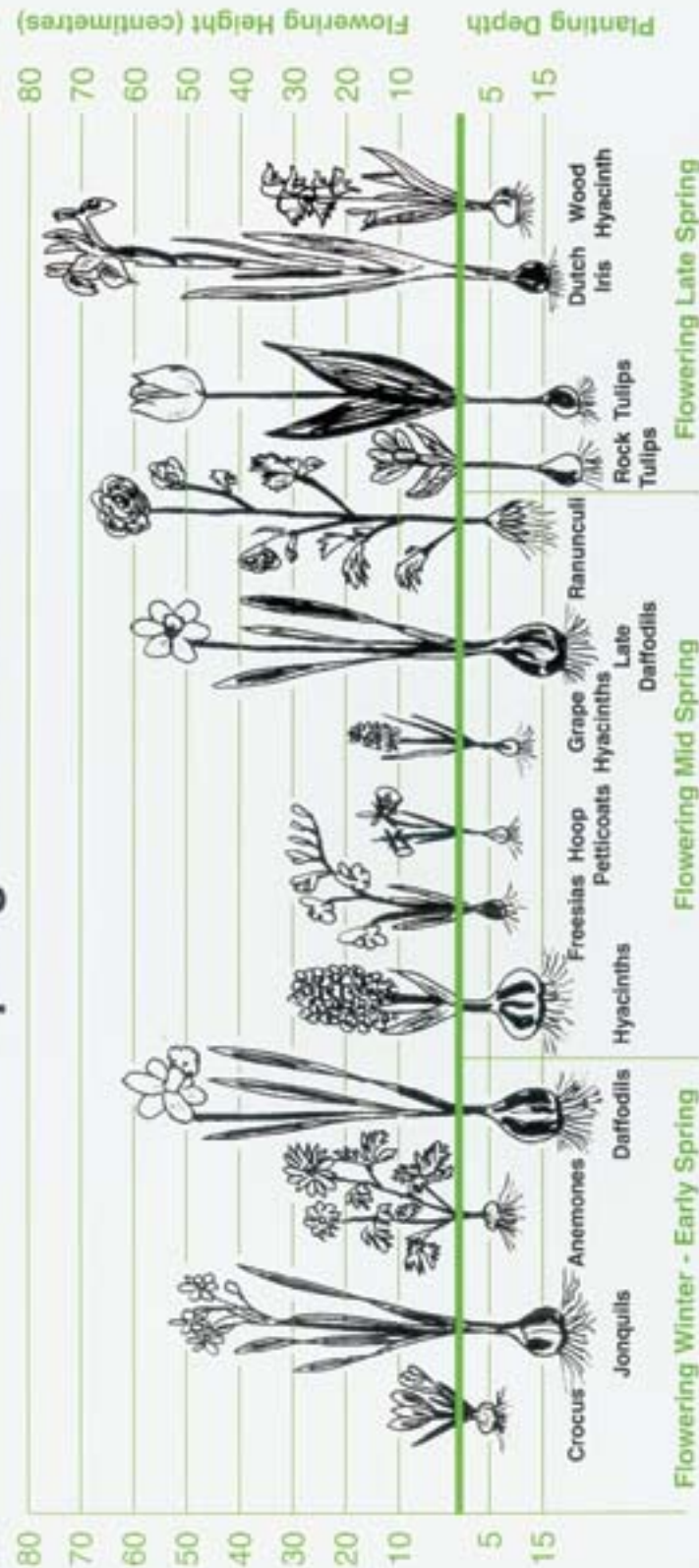
double daffodils, jonquils, tazettas, triandrus and species daffodils, rock tulips, alliums, crocus, colchicums, ranunculi, anemones, ornithogalums, zephyranthes, fritillaries, trout lilies, nerines, wood anemone, dwarf gladioli

## FOR FRONT OF GARDEN BEDS

star flowers, grape hyacinths, babianas, lachenalias, hoop petticoats, dwarf ranunculi, freesias, dwarf iris, chionodoxas



## Spring Bulb Planner



# BULB PLANNING GUIDE



**Create your own special Spring flower garden the easy way...**

Bulbs are unmatched by any other class of plant for the brilliance of their Spring Display.

They are suited to the minimum maintenance garden. Easily planted, they bloom year after year with minimal care and minimal watering.

Preferring a temperate, Mediterranean climate, bulbs thrive in most parts of Australia, except the tropics.



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