

Spring Blooming Bulbs Primer

How to buy: Look for large healthy looking bulbs, squeeze them to make sure they are dense and solid. Do not buy bulbs that have any signs of rot, are soft or overly dry, papery and too lightweight.

When to plant: Spring blooming bulbs should be planted out when night-time temp are around 40-50°F or about 6 weeks before you expect first frost. Most spring blooming bulbs need a chilly period to bloom.

Where to plant: Choose a spot that will receive 6 hours of sunlight. This can be under deciduous trees as most early blooming bulbs like crocus, daffodils, and early tulips will bloom before the trees leaf out. Later blooming bulbs like most tulips, alliums, anemones will need a spot in full sun.

How to plant:

The rule of thumb is to plant the bulb 3 times the length of the bulb. Most Tulips and daffodils are large bulbs and can measure 2 inches from point to base they should be planted about 6 inches deep. This is really too deep for most squirrels to dig out but if you have very persistent squirrels then inter-plant yummy tulip bulbs with not delicious daffodils, alliums and/or fritillaria, this will keep even the most persistent squirrels away. Same goes for other squirrel favorites like crocus.

Mass planting in a small space, since Daffodils, and tulips are large bulbs you can layer them with other smaller bulbs for a continuous display in a small footprint. Plant daffodils 6 inches deep, then add soil, and plant later blooming tulips at 5 inches, add more soil and plant crocus or corydalis near the top at about 2 inches deep. Lots of color in a small space.

Remember to leave the leaves alone until they yellow. The leaves feed the bulb for the coming year. If you cut them off or bundle them up they will not photosynthesize efficiently and will eventually die out